



Group says it freed Belgian hostages

BEIRUT (R) — A Palestinian group led by Abu Nidal said Monday it had released four Belgian hostages in response to efforts by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Omani envoys flies to Yemen

NICOSIA (R) — Oman, trying to promote a peaceful solution in the Gulf crisis, Monday sent a senior envoy for talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh who has kept open lines of communication with Iraq.

2 more Americans killed in Gulf

SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — Two more U.S. military personnel have died as a result of traffic accidents in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. central command said Monday.

Anti-war protest in London

LONDON (AP) — A small group of American peace campaigners on Monday staged an anti-war protest outside the U.S. embassy in London, police said.

Haitian army arrests leader of coup bid

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The Haitian army stormed the presidential palace Monday morning, halting a coup attempt by Duvalierist Roger Lafontant hours after the former head of the feared Tontons Macoutes said he had seized power, local radio and diplomats reported.

Second 'peace boat' sails for Tripoli

TUNIS (R) — A second Arab "peace boat" carrying medicine and milk to Iraq left Tunis Sunday for Tripoli on the second leg of its voyage towards the Gulf.

Rival gunmen clash in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Gunmen of rival militias clashed in Beirut Sunday, breaching a peace plan enforced by the government, security sources said Monday.

Japan's socialist leader to visit Iraq

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Socialist Party leader, Takako Doi, will embark on a three-day peace mission to Iraq Wednesday, a party spokesman said Monday.

Baker, Hurd say Gulf deadline cannot be extended

LONDON (Agencies) — The United States and Britain said Monday there would be no extension of the U.N. deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait and only a prompt Iraqi pullout would avert war.

After talks in London, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd were questioned by reporters on suggestions that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might ask the Security Council for an extension of the Jan. 15 deadline.

Baker said: "We should not be talking about postponing deadlines that we have been saying are real deadlines." "Saddam Hussein has it within his power to determine whether there is peace or whether there is no peace. The choice is his. We hope he makes the right choice."

French stand unchanged after Vauzelle mission

PARIS (R) — France's determination to free Kuwait remained unchanged after lengthy weekend talks between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and a confidant of President Francois Mitterrand, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Monday.

He said Paris remained determined to secure an Iraqi pullout and guaranteed the Baghdad government that it would not be attacked if it withdrew its troops. Dumas said in a radio interview that Michel Vauzelle, president of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission and Mitterrand's former spokesman, had come back with valuable information from his four-and-a-half-hour meeting with Saddam.

Bush may call off summit; Shevardnadze may return

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush is reportedly considering cancelling a February superpower summit because of differences over arms agreements and the Gulf crisis, a newspaper and U.S. television network reported.

The United States still intends at this point to go ahead with the summit but there is a possibility it could be delayed, a White House spokesman said later Monday. "I guess it's fair to say that there's always a possibility that the trip could be delayed, but at this point we intend to go."

the European Community. On Tuesday, Baker will see French President Francois Mitterrand, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis.

If the Aziz meeting ends in failure, the focus of Baker's mission will quickly switch from peace to war. Mitterrand, while supporting the U.S.-led drive to reverse Iraq's Aug. 2 occupation of Kuwait, also has proposed offering Iraq some incentive to withdraw.

With strong German and Italian support, he proposed the staging of a Mideast peace conference after an Iraqi agreement to pull out of Kuwait during which Palestinian complaints against Israel would be aired.

'PLO will join Iraq in battle'

BAGHDAD (R) — Yasser Arafat said Monday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would stand alongside Iraq in any war against U.S.-led forces in the Gulf.

Addressing a Palestinian rally in Baghdad, attended by senior Iraqi officials, the PLO chairman said if the United States and allies wanted to fight Iraq over its seizure of Kuwait, "then I say welcome, welcome, welcome to war."

4 Palestinian drop anti-expulsion appeal

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Four Palestinians Monday dropped their appeals against orders to expel them from the occupied Gaza Strip after Israel's supreme court rejected a plea to set secret evidence against them, Israel Radio reported.

Supreme court clerk Shmaryahu Cohen confirmed the withdrawal of the appeals, and an army spokesman said the step clears the way for expulsions at any time. Expelling the four can be expected to renew objections from the United States and other Western countries, which have repeatedly complained that Israel's practice of expelling Palestinians violates international law.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran consults with Finance Minister Basel Jarrahneh during Monday's session of the Lower House (Photo by Youssef Al-Ahnan)

War would extend throughout world, Iraqi president warns

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein Monday warned that there could be an all-out war if hostilities broke out in the Gulf between Iraq and the U.S.-led multinational forces. "The aggressors plan to make Iraq as the operation theatre, but when the battle is launched Iraq will not be the only theatre," Saddam told his senior aides Monday.

Speaking one day after he told the Iraqi army that they should be prepared for a long war with the United States, Saddam said the war could extend to all Arab countries and probably the world at large.

"Each and every Arab struggle will stretch his arm to reach all those there to attack Iraq wherever they are on the globe," he said in an address broadcast on Baghdad Radio. Saddam, who described Iraq's confrontation with the United States as the "battle of liberating Palestine," said Arabs were defeated in the past because they did not extend their battles to other places.

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House rejects additional tax on household phone bills

By Abdullah Hassanat Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood faction outside the Cabinet Monday mustered enough votes to exempt households from the payment of a government-proposed 10 per cent tax on telephone bills.

While the Brotherhood faction in the Cabinet voted along with the original proposal, the faction outside proposed that the tax levied on all telephone bills did not include bills on household domestic calls. Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, also from the Brotherhood, voted for the amendment.

The controversial subparagraph in the additional tax law drew a lengthy debate that took most of the House's time Monday. The Brotherhood proposed that the whole subparagraph be cancelled since it placed additional taxes on the people. "One cannot list the number of taxes people are required to pay," fumed Deputy Ahmad Kafaween from Tafleh. "Hospital tax, education tax, income tax, departure tax, TV tax, insurance, universities, birth, death, marriage, export, import, etc."

Prime Minister Mudar Badran countered: "Let me remind the House that income from this tax has already been approved by you when you passed the budget." Abdullah Nsour, chairman of the House Finance Committee that passed the proposal, explained that the treasury revenues from the tax amounted to JD 6.45 million. He asked: "Does the House want to create more deficit in the budget?"

Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber, on behalf of the Brotherhood, proposed that the tax be only levied on companies and institutions and not individual subscribers. (Continued on page 2)

RJ pledges to continue services despite high cost

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier, announced Monday that it will maintain its air services operations at all costs and according to schedule despite the heavy increases in insurance rates on international air transport operations.

RJ could, however, be forced to introduce amendments to its scheduled flights on certain routes in light of passenger traffic trends, the announcement said.

The RJ announcement was issued in the wake of recent developments against the backdrop of fears prompting foreign airlines to terminate flights to the region. Following is the RJ statement: (Continued on page 2)

Rebels claim they control Mogadishu

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Somali rebels battling to oust President Mohammad Siad Barre said Monday they controlled nearly all the capital Mogadishu and appealed to his forces to surrender.

A statement issued by the Rome office of the United Somali Congress (USC) said fighting was going on around the international airport, still held by government forces, and an underground bunker where it said Siad Barre was holding out. The rest of the city was in rebel hands, it said. French marines and other foreign troops were sent to Mogadishu. The navy said in a statement from Paris that the marines set up a helicopter landing site in Mogadishu from which foreigners were flown to warships offshore. French commandos have been in action in several African capitals in the past year to protect fellow countrymen caught in political unrest, most recently in Chad last month. A USC spokesman in the Rome office said he did not know whether rumours of a Somali president had fled to the United Arab Emirates were true. About 70 Somalis fleeing nine days of fighting, including relatives of the president and some ministers, were aboard a plane that flew into the UAE Monday. Its arrival sparked a flurry of rumours that Siad Barre had fled into exile.

Iranians thrive on 'import/export' over the border with Iraq

By Anwar Faruqi
The Associated Press

TEHRAN — Mahmoud Ali, a burly Kurd, sat in a battered chair in Tehran's Atlas Hotel and happily admitted that his smuggling operation into Iraq is booming.

"We take whatever we can sell, but fresh food, especially meat, sells best," he said. "We sell a lot of it."

He frowned at the word "smuggler," then gave another toothy grin and described himself as a "businessman. I'm in the import-export business."

Officially, Tehran, which says it is neutral in the Gulf crisis, is abiding by the U.N. trade embargo on Iraq — despite appeals from Saddam Hussein and demands by Iranian radicals that food and medicine be sent to fellow Shiite Muslims there.

"I can assure you that no goods are crossing the border with Iraq," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said in a recent interview.

But Mahmoud Ali and thousands like him are making a mockery of the sanctions, imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait Aug. 2.

The smugglers are helping Iraq survive the international effort to strangle its economy and to force it out of Kuwait.

"Our grazing grounds are so close to the border that we can easily slip in a herd or two. Of course, other things can be slipped in just as easily," Ali said.

"There's a big market in Iraq for sugar, flour, fruit, tomato sauce, powdered milk, and canned goods," he said.

Travelers from Baghdad say the shelves of many stores are crammed with foodstuffs said to have come from Iran.

But most diplomats in Baghdad and Tehran do not believe that more strategic materials, like military or industrial spare

parts, are getting in from Iran. The sanctions on Iraq have been a boon for people like Ali. But border smuggling between Iran and Iraq has been going on for years. The main smugglers were the Kurds, whose mountainous region straddles the frontier.

Tehran residents say that even during the eight-year war with Iraq, when Iranian consumers suffered severe food shortages, Iraqi goods — including items such as toothpaste — were available on the market.

"We've simply reversed our route," said Ali, who boasted that he made a killing during the Iran-Iraq war with his mule trains of contraband clambering over mountain trails.

Iran's border with Iraq is closed to Western observers, making it impossible to gauge the size of the hole in the sanctions.

Officials have admitted, however, that it is impossible to seal the winding 1,711-kilometre frontier.

By day, the northern frontier where Ali operates is guarded. But by night, it becomes a no-man's land where the hardy Kurds — who are always fighting the Iranians or the Iraqis — are in control.

"The Kurds know the mountains so well, that day or night, they can slip through secret passes they have used for generations," said an Iranian journalist who recently visited Kurdistan.

An Iranian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "If we couldn't seal the border during the war, when our national security was at stake, how are we expected to do so now?"

Iraq, which is virtually landlocked, has two hostile neighbours — Saudi Arabia to the south and Syria to the north-west. Like Iran, Jordan to the west and Turkey to the north have said they are abiding by

the sanctions. Many Iranians, with harsh memories of wartime famine still fresh in their minds, have no wish to aid the Iraqis. Officials say they are trying to stop the sanction-busting smugglers.

"Yesterday we even stopped a Kurd who was trying to smuggle just two sacks of flour on a donkey," Besharati said.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported in September that 29 men were arrested attempting to smuggle food across the border.

There has been little other evidence of efforts to enforce the sanctions.

But Besharati said some Iranian border guards have been killed in shootouts with smugglers. None of these incidents were reported by the official media.

Iranian newspaper editorials have insisted that food and other "humanitarian" shipments were exempt from the sanctions and suggested that Tehran should send food and medicine to the "Muslim brothers" across the border.

Iran has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, but has also denounced the Western military intervention in the Gulf. Still, President Hashemi Rafsanjani appears content to leave Iraq to its fate.

But his hardline anti-Western rivals, led by Parliament Speaker Mehdi Karubi and former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, want him to confront the United States, which they consider the Islamic republic's arch-enemy.

"I believe that food and medicine should be sent to Iraq," Karubi said, echoing calls in the radical-dominated parliament.

"We, who suffered during the war from the Western sanctions against us, are sorry to see the suffering of the Iraqi people, who have done nothing wrong."

Sudanese court frees 5 convicted of bombing

KHARTOUM (AP) — A judge Monday freed five Palestinians who had served less than three years in prison for a bombing that killed four British nationals and three other people.

One of the defendants said he would "do it again, everywhere, ... until the liberation of Palestine."

The five originally were convicted of assassination and sentenced to hang for the May 15, 1978, bombing of a hotel dining room and another attack on a nearby private club frequented by foreigners.

Sixteen months later, the supreme court ruled they should be able to pay blood money to escape the gallows. The court said the men's crime was murder, which is covered by Sudan's Islamic law blood-money provision, not assassination, which is not.

On Monday, in commuting the men's sentence to time served, Judge Ahmad Al Bashir Al Hadi said he was being lenient because the murder had a "political motivation. ... It cannot be looked at away from these motives."

The Palestinians, who claimed membership in a group called "Arab Revolutionary Cells," paid \$30,000 to the family of a Sudanese army officer they killed and \$25,000 to survivors of a waiter at the Acropole Hotel. The man who paid the money, a Palestinian, was in court. But neither he nor his lawyer would

reveal his name or say who provided the blood money.

Relatives of the British victims, all Quakers who do not believe in capital punishment, refused to accept money but told the court through the British embassy they wanted the men punished with long prison sentences at hard labour.

In passing sentence, Hadi said the British stipulations were not binding on the court.

Under Sudan's Islamic law, a court may ignore implied or stated "unsuitable conditions" imposed by families of murder victims who opt not to have a murderer hanged.

Technically, the sentences were imprisonment of two years for murder, two years for destruction of property, six months for illegal possession of weapons and two months for attempted murder. Several people were wounded and two months in the bombing at the Acropole and subsequent submachine-gun attack on the Sudan club.

But Hadi said the sentences were "concurrent," meaning in Sudanese usage the murder sentence would cancel out the destruction sentence and the attempted murder the illegal possession.

The five men were arrested immediately after the attack on the club, which during Sudan's colonial period was restricted to British people.

Histadrut opposes plan to bring in foreign workers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's labour federation said Monday it would fight a government plan to bring in 10,000 foreign workers to build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants.

"It is a national crime to bring in people when we have unemployment so high," said Israel Kessar, general secretary of the Histadrut labour federation.

At least 110,000 Israelis are out of work, and many of the more than 190,000 Soviets who arrived last year are desperately seeking work, he said.

In addition, Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip make up more than half of Israel's 120,000 construction workers and fear displacement. Arab economists said. Thousands of Arabs already have lost jobs in Israel following

a wave of stabbing attacks on Jews.

Histadrut spokesman Shmuel Soler said the federation would appeal to the cabinet to oppose the plan, put forward by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who also heads the cabinet's special committee on immigration.

Sbaron told the committee Sunday that the foreign workers were needed to "make it possible to shift to mechanised construction." He mentioned Turkey, Thailand and Portugal as countries whose workers might be brought in.

Sharon has been sharply criticised for a deepening housing shortage that has sent rents skyrocketing and forced immigrant families to double up in apartments.

Demand grows for Pakistani withdrawal from Gulf force

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A growing number of Pakistanis are demanding that their orthodox Islamic government recall the country's 5,000 soldiers from the multi-national force arrayed against Iraq in Saudi Arabia.

Increasingly, Pakistanis are condemning U.S. involvement in the Gulf and are praising Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for his unrelenting efforts to link the Gulf crisis to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.S. President George Bush has refused to discuss linking the crisis over Kuwait and the Palestinian question.

"The thirst for Saddam's blood is but a logical sequence to... the ongoing brutal and inhuman repression in occupied Palestine," editorialised the Pakistan country's largest selling English-language newspaper.

Pakistani authorities had been worried about joining the international troop mobilisation in Saudi Arabia largely because of growing anti-American sentiment at home.

Fearing that an offer of troops would be seen as a concession to Washington, Islamabad waited for a personally delivered request from Saudi Arabia before promising in September to deploy soldiers. It was not until a week ago that the last troops left.

Both the civilian and military leadership have been vehement in their assertion that Pakistan's soldiers are in the kingdom solely to defend the shrines in Mecca and Medina, Islam's holiest cities. The government also has been careful to disavow any links with U.S. soldiers, saying Pakistan's troops were under the com-

mand of the Saudis.

But many Pakistanis, including several cabinet ministers, aren't convinced and they want their troops recalled.

During a recent session of the National Assembly, Satar Niazi, an Islamic fundamentalist and social affairs minister, blasted his government's decision to send troops to the Gulf and demanded an immediate withdrawal.

In a strident speech to the powerful policy-making Lower House of Parliament, Niazi also blasted the United Nations, calling it "an organisation of hypocrites... formed to bring peace to the world, (instead) it has sanctioned American aggression against Iraq."

A second National Assembly member, Mohammad Khan Shirazi, demanded a return of Pakistani troops and a united drive by Muslim countries "to force American troops from Saudi Arabia."

The more orthodox and powerful members of Pakistan's government appear to be leading the drive for a withdrawal.

In the past several weeks, demonstrations have been held in the capital over Pakistan's involvement in the Gulf and the deployment of U.S. troops there.

Anti-American rhetoric has dominated Pakistan's English and Urdu language newspapers since Washington suspended a \$73 million economic and military assistance programme on Oct. 1 over suspicions about Pakistan's nuclear programme.

While routinely denying it has an atomic bomb, Islamabad has made it clear that its nuclear programme is none of Washington's business.

RJ pledge

(Continued from page 1)

on the number of passengers and their destinations. RJ will continue to provide air freight services to Jordanian exporters as usual.

"But in the light of air passenger traffic trends, RJ could introduce changes in flights on certain routes and could be launching combined flights in order to ensure continued services to Jordanian citizens."

"RJ, which serves as an air bridge connecting Jordan with the outside world, and acting on the concept that it should play a strategic and national role in providing air transport, wishes to emphasise that it will continue to offer services despite the extraordinary circumstances

through which the region is passing, and, regardless of the heavy cost and the extra burdens imposed on the national airline as a result of ongoing developments in the region."

Saddam

(Continued from page 1)

for the whole world.

An editorial in Al Qadisiya said the aim was to liberate Arabs from the injustice of repressive, treacherous and corrupt regimes.

"The aims of Iraq in this historic confrontation are now clear and well-known, namely defending the unity of Iraq... through the return of Kuwait to its motherland and remaining forever Iraq's 19th province," it said.

"Other aims are to liberate

Iranian radicals step up anti-British campaign

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian radicals are challenging Tehran's more pragmatic leaders are mounting an increasingly strident anti-British campaign over author Salman Rushdie's controversial book "The Satanic Verses."

Shouting "Death to Britain" and "Death to apostate Salman Rushdie," some 500 university students demonstrated outside the British embassy in Tehran Sunday demanding the release of an Iranian student held in Britain.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said that police protecting the embassy scuffled with students who attempted to break their cordon.

The radical protests over the student, Mehrdad Kowkabi, have embarrassed the government of pragmatic President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who restored ties with Britain only three months ago.

Sunday's protest was organised by the Muslim Students Association whose members seized the U.S. embassy in 1979, and held 52 staff hostage for 444 days.

Kowkabi went on trial in London Monday charged with fire-bombing a bookshop selling copies of the novel which many Muslims regard as blasphemous.

In September, Britain and Iran restored relations cut in March 1989 after the late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini decreed Rushdie's death.

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Moscow and Washington once scrapped over Somalia

By Robert Evans
Reuters

MOSCOW — When U.S. marines flew Soviet and American diplomats out of the battle-torn Somali capital of Mogadishu this weekend, it marked a farewell to years of super-power squabbling in the Horn of Africa.

Soviet television told millions of viewers Saturday night that Moscow's Ambassador Vladimir Korneyev led his staff to safety in the United States embassy after his own mission had been invaded by armed groups.

It also reported that outgoing Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had telephoned Secretary of State James Baker to thank him as the Soviet officials and other foreign refugees were lifted by marine helicopter to a U.S. vessel

offshore.

Such cooperation would have been unthinkable throughout the 1970s and the first half of the 1980s as Moscow and Washington waged a fierce cold war struggle for influence in Somalia and its neighbour Ethiopia.

When then Major-General Mohammad Siad Barre seized power from a pro-Western regime in Mogadishu in 1969, he was wooed and won by the Kremlin as a counterweight to the Washington-backed Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia.

Quickly, Soviet military and technical aid poured into Somalia through its main port of Berbera. Somalia's ministers flocked to Moscow and its military cadets were despatched to Soviet training schools. Siad Barre, proclaiming himself an anti-imperialist re-

volutionary, was recognised by then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev as a "comrade," a greeting long reserved for foreign communists, and feted in 1976 on a three-week Soviet visit.

Throughout this period, Washington complained that the Soviet navy was turning Berbera into a missile facility and base for a major presence in the Indian Ocean, threatening Middle East oil tanker routes.

But in 1977 the tide turned. Siad Barre, who with discreet Kremlin backing had long preached the unification of all Somali tribes, seized the opportunity of political turmoil in Ethiopia to invade his neighbour's Somali-populated Ogaden province.

But, as some Soviet African specialists now admit, Moscow found potentially more useful

allies in Ethiopia — and promptly withdrew support from the Somali leader.

Radical young officers seized power in Ethiopia in 1974 and by 1977 Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam had won a predominant position in the ruling and became head of state.

At first, Moscow accused the West and especially the United States of sparking the Ogaden conflict to further its own interests but as the war intensified the split with Siad Barre came into the open.

The Somali leader flew to Moscow to plead his case. The Kremlin, already transporting its own advisers and Cuban troops to back the Ethiopians in the Ogaden, sent him home empty-handed.

Siad Barre then turned to the United States, but a still suspicious Washington offered

him full support only after his forces withdrew from the Ogaden in March 1978.

In a symbolic gesture that bore much weight in the Soviet Union of that period, a speech the "comrade" Somali president had made to a Soviet Communist Party congress in 1976 was deleted from an official record.

For years afterwards, Moscow and Washington swapped charges that each was plotting coups and counter-coups in Mogadishu and Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, and posing a threat to peace in the region with their arms supplies.

But under Mikhail Gorbachev, who came to power in 1985, the Kremlin has shown increasingly less interest in seeking to project its influence by military muscle or even economic aid — which it can ill afford to offer.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
18:30 Koran
19:00 Programme review
19:45 Children programmes
19:50 News Summary
19:55 Local programme
20:00 Programme review
20:05 News in Arabic
20:10 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Cartoons
18:30 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Churches in Charge
21:10 Life Revolution
22:00 News in English
23:30 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 Fajr
06:32 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:42 Dhuhur
14:29 'Asr
16:52 Maghrib
18:14 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swellish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785, 68326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622368
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625443.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775361.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Clouds will increase gradually and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Anwar Aghabawi 642696
Dr. Khalid Abdo 637129
Dr. Mohammad Al Shawish 658878
Dr. Tawfiq Qablan 632029
Firdous pharmacy 661912
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Najroukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 639541
Rescue 199
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 607800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Al-Sina Hospital 630140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Simonsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 848645
Al-Mustashir Hospital 667270
The Islamic, Abadi 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abadi 6641646
Jalal, Al-Mohajir 771012
Al-Bashir, J. Amn 7511126
Amr, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 6024090
Amal Hospital 674155

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Muscat (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:30 Dubai (RJ)

10:45 Jeddah, Aqaba (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:40 Montreal, New York (RJ)
15:00 Belgrade (RJ)
20:40 Tripoli (RJ)
21:45 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
22:40 Rome (RJ)
RJBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)73555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Rm Al Nafesa Hospital (02)747100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Moscow (SU)
19:05 Cairo (MS)
MARKET PRICES
Upsettles price in fils per kg
Apple 580 / 500
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukassar) 450 / 400
Beans 450 / 400
Cabbage 100 / 50
Carrot 240 / 180
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Corn 220 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 440 / 350
Dates 300 / 400
Eggplant 200 / 150
Garlic 180 / 120
Lemon 200 / 150
Mallow 180 / 120
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 270 / 220
Onion (green) 160 / 120
Okra 600 / 500
Orange 320 / 180
Pepper (hot) 220 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 130 / 90
Potho 320 / 260
Radish 200 / 150
Sage 430 / 300
Spinach 150 / 100
Tomatoes 250 / 200

former Turkish prime minister sceptical about Geneva talks, but says dialogue better than nothing

Ecevit: Majority of Turks does not support government's Gulf policy

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A majority of the people of Turkey, one of the key players in the anti-Iraqi alliance, does not support the government's approach to the Gulf crisis, and the shifting public opinion could influence Ankara's role in a potential military conflict in the region, according to former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

The strong anti-war attitude and opposition to the multinational forces assembled in the region as well as a growing debate among Turks over the issue will definitely affect the government's position, according to Ecevit, who is now chief editor of a leading Turkish daily.

"Apparently, the president of the republic follows a closer line to the American policy, but the Turkish public opinion is unanimously against military solution and against Turkish involvement in the problems among Arab countries," Ecevit told the Jordan Times in an interview. "I am confident that the Turkish public opinion will prevail on the government," he said shortly before his departure from Amman after attending a roundtable on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the peoples of the region and that of a military confrontation on the

world. Ecevit, who conducted one of the first interviews with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and came under fierce criticism, will be honoured by the Turkish Journalists Association for the same interview.

"This proves the change that occurred among the Turkish people from the beginning of the crisis until now," said Ecevit. "All the opposition parties have reservations about the policy of the president, and I think that the will of the people will (eventually) prevail."

Not only have the Turkish people become more opposed to western interference in the Gulf crisis, but they also disapprove of the build-up of U.S. airforce bases in Turkey.

"Turkish public opinion is disturbed by the positioning of airforces or any other military units from other countries on our soil," Ecevit said. "The Turkish people are unanimously against military solution and they are also against Turkish involvement in the problems among Arab countries."

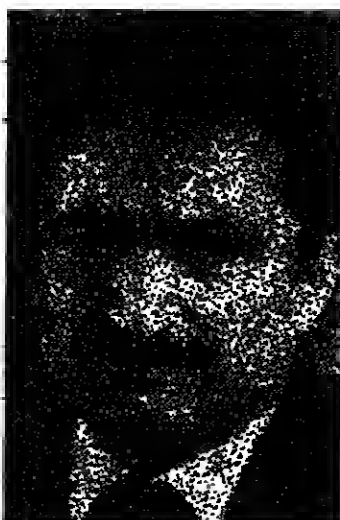
Ecevit insisted that the Gulf crisis must be solved within Arab context. "If the involvement of the United States and West European countries in the Middle East problems continues, it would be difficult to settle the crisis," The former

prime minister said. "It is for this reason that I wish a process of meaningful dialogue between the regional countries themselves should start without delay and without the interference of outside powers."

In his efforts to seek a diplomatic solution and save the countries most hit from the economic losses they incurred, Ecevit called for a United Nations fund that must be established with a contribution from rich countries which are benefiting from the crisis in order to alleviate the burden of Jordan and other countries.

"I am not optimistic at the moment; the rich countries have been treating Jordan in a cruel way," he pointed out. "We have to try to build up a public opinion in this respect, and though I am not in the government I will do anything (in my power) to activate public opinion."

In the interview Ecevit sounded sceptical about this week's meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of state James Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. At the same time, he did not rule out a positive outcome to the meeting. "Any conference is better than no conference," he said. "However, so far, neither Iraq nor the United States seem to be inclined towards a fruitful dialogue, but I hope that this



Bulent Ecevit

meeting will help prevent a military conflict. But even in talking, both sides should be more careful about the psychological impact of the language they use."

Ecevit warned of the possible outcome of American involvement and intervention in middle eastern conflicts. "In spite of the fact that the United States is at the other end of the world it has de facto become a middle eastern power and an omnipotent one, and this disturbs me a lot," he said. "It appears to me that this is the beginning of a new era of colonialisation."

Hammad urges closure of border with Iraq unless aid received

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government appointed committee in charge of the evacuees from the Gulf is urging the government to close the Iraqi-Jordanian border to prevent any influx of evacuees in the event of war unless financial aid promised by the United Nations or other organisations starts arriving.

Salameh Hammad, Chairman of the Evacuees Welfare Committee, said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Monday that his team had prepared a detailed report, to be submitted to the government, demanding that the Iraqi-Jordanian border be closed to all evacuees unless the committee receives financial and in-kind assistance promised by the United Nations and the world community.

Jordan is expected, in the coming few days, to witness a new flood of evacuees crossing from Iraq as a result of the developments in the Gulf pending on the outcome of the talks in Geneva between the U.S. and Iraqi foreign ministers, said Hammad.

"But should there be no progress towards solving the crisis

peacefully, Jordan is bound to witness a fresh influx of large numbers of evacuees of various nationalities," he said.

Hammad noted that Iraq now has nearly two million foreign nationals, most of whom would be fleeing the country should adverse circumstances emerge; most probably they would be heading towards the Jordanian border.

Presently Jordan is handling the repatriation of 4,000 Vietnamese evacuees in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The Kingdom accommodated and offered transport, health and food services to nearly 865,000 evacuees of different nationalities, including Egyptians and Asians, over the past four months, according to Hammad.

A statement issued at the end of a roundtable in Amman over the weekend said that international contributions to alleviate Jordan's burden and suffering have been discouraging. Only \$12 million had been received by Jordan as reimbursement for the \$56 million it spent to assist the evacuees between August and November 1990, the statement

published Monday said.

The roundtable participants stressed that the consequences of any crisis would be devastating in terms of human, economic, social and perhaps even environmental suffering. Jordan, which has already been hard hit by the crisis, would find itself in even greater economic and social peril, said the participants in their statement following the final session chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

Following the influx of thousands of evacuees, Prince Hassan and senior government officials issued one appeal after another to the world community officials issued one appeal after another to the world community to extend assistance to Jordan to cope with the crisis. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'deh later said the delay in response to Jordan's appeals could be politically motivated.

According to Hammad, his committee had worked out a plan over the past two months, in cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies operating in the Middle East and

with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who is serving as the personal envoy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, to supervise humanitarian assistance to the evacuees.

"So far the world community did not respond favourably to the plan and no aid was forthcoming," Hammad complained.

Hammad described the handling of the evacuees' affairs over the past months as a nightmare. "More than 1.5 million persons passed through Jordanian territories since Aug. 2 1990, when Iraq took over Kuwait, but 865,000 evacuees, mostly Asians had to be housed at makeshift camps in the country," he said.

"The evacuees' problem is a problem for the whole international community, and not for Jordan alone, and therefore various nations and organisations are expected to extend a helping hand," Hammad added.

Hammad expressed appreciation to the few nations and organisations which responded to Jordan's call so far and sent relief supplies and financial aid to the committee to help it shoulder its humanitarian mission.

Australia, UNICEF provide relief supplies

CANBERRA (J.T.) — Australia has announced that it will provide 250,000 Australian dollars (AUD) to Jordan to help cover the cost of caring for evacuees from the Gulf during the Gulf crisis, according to an announcement by Australia's Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Neal Blewett. Blewett said that the funds would be channelled through the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisations (UNDRO) which has appealed to the international community for financial assistance for Jordan.

"The Jordanian government has incurred substantial expenses in dealing with the massive influx of people from Iraq and Kuwait," Dr. Blewett said. "It is only fitting that Australia continue to respond to calls for help while the crisis in the Gulf continues."

Jordan's major costs were incurred in transportation of evacuees, establishment and maintenance of camps, provisions of food, health and administrative support.

This latest grant brings Australia's total emergency assistance for the repatriation, care and maintenance of third country nationals affected by the Gulf crisis to AUD 2.5 million.

Provision for emergency relief assistance forms part of the government's overseas aid programme administered by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB).

UNICEF relief supply

A Royal Jordanian Cargo plane chartered by UNICEF will make two flights between Copenhagen and Amman over the next two days, ferrying essential drugs and medical supplies to replenish Jordan's emergency medical stocks.

The first flight is expected Tuesday, January 8 and the second on the following day. UNICEF, through these two shipments, worth \$356,000, is responding to appeals by Jordan to make up for medical supplies already used up during the summer evacuee relief operation and in preparation for any future emergencies.

A separate shipment of 18,000 blankets worth around \$100,000 is expected at Aqaba Port on January 18.

UNICEF's contributions towards Jordan's emergency relief operation for Gulf evacuees had amounted, up to the end of 1990, to over \$2.2 million, in cash and kind and covered supplies of tents, blankets, mattresses, water tanks and detergents. Building of latrines, water supplies and costs of local transport of relief supplies to transit sites and the management of evacuee camps were and will continue to be provided by UNICEF in Jordan.

De Marco says Palestinian leaders ready to reach peace with Israel

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.N. General Assembly President Guido de Marco Monday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan by describing the Palestinian refugee camps in the Israeli-held Arab territories as concentration camps under Nazi Germany, and said that the Jews, having served as victims in those camps, have no right to persecute the Palestinians in the same manner.

Addressing a press conference at Amman Plaza Hotel little before departing for Cairo in the course of his current Middle East tour, de Marco said that he felt through his contacts with Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories their full readiness to reach a just peace with the Israelis, he added that the Palestinian people were determined to go on resisting Israel's occupation with all means until they achieve their national aspirations.

"The human dimension in the Palestine problem is not res-

tricted to ensuring basic services to the residents of the occupied territories, but rather to ensure the basic rights of the Palestinian people to determine their own future on their own land," said de Marco, who is also Malta's foreign minister.

The U.N. General Assembly president urged Israel to accept an international peace conference on the Middle East, saying that it was in the Jewish state's own interests.

"I do insist and hope that Israel will realise that what we are saying is anti-Israel, but also pro-Israel," de Marco said.

He said that Israel could not go on forever occupying the land and rejecting the idea of an international conference which is backed by the United Nations. "Now all that Israel have accepted the principle of the conference," de Marco added.

Referring to the outcome of his tour in the occupied Arab territor-

ies, de Marco said: "I found a powderkeg in the occupied territories that threatens peace in the region and the world."

He said that he had found no positive or favourable response on the part of the Israeli government to the idea of an international conference.

De Marco, who toured refugee camps in the occupied territories before visiting camps in Jordan, said he would submit a report on his tour to the U.N. General Assembly and would discuss his findings with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

De Marco appealed for justice and said that the Palestinians stand more in need of international assurances, that their cause is forgotten and that they are demanding protection against Israeli practices.

Upon his departure, de Marco was seen off by Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin and other government officials.

Ministry of Education to reinstate 80 teachers

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education, reinstating 80 men and women teachers dismissed from their work for political reasons and, according to a ministry statement, procedures for reappointing them will begin in the coming few days.

According to an announcement Monday, Minister of Education Abdullah Al Akleh issued directives to the concerned departments to reinstate the teachers and said procedures for their reemployment will be worked out with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) which is in charge of filling posts in government offices.

The decision came after a meeting between Parliament's Public Freedoms and Civil Rights Committee members and Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Sunday, during which discussion covered the reinstatement of all the those dismissed from public office for political reasons.

The prime minister promised that immediate steps would be taken in this direction in cooperation with the concerned authorities.

Out of 544 persons dismissed and who applied for reinstatement, only 372 were reinstated by the end of the year 1990, according to government sources.

The minister of education's decision came at the end of a meeting of the ministry's Education Committee which reviewed matters related to the tawjili examinations and the educational standards in various schools.

The committee discussed various aspects related to the tawjili examination which is organised by the ministry for the private and public schools.

The committee's meeting coincided with the beginning of the first tawjili examination for the 1990-1991 scholastic year. A statement by Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, director of the ministry's Examination Department, said that 62,749 male and female students will Tuesday begin the first of two examination sessions, which will take place in 837 examination halls in the country.

Obaidat said that students were sitting for the literary, scientific, nursing, hotel management, industrial, agricultural and commercial streams between Jan. 8 and 19. Marking of the papers will begin immediately after the first examination, Obaidat noted.

The second tawjili examination session is normally held in June each year.

Iranian minister accepts invitation to visit Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amid continuing Jordanian-Iranian contacts towards resuming diplomatic relations, an Iranian minister has accepted a formal invitation to visit Jordan, informed sources said Monday.

The invitation to Iranian Health Minister Irajeh Fiaz was extended by Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben, the then Jordanian health minister, during a meeting in Damascus in October and Tehran has sent a formal letter accepting the invitation, the sources said.

The Damascus meeting grouped regional health ministers and was organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

No date has been set for the visit, but the Iranian response to the invitation is seen as a key indicator of Tehran's desire to restore formal relations with Amman, severed in the early days of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, a senior official said.

In September, Jordan's then foreign minister, Marwan Al Qasem, met with his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati at the United Nations and discussed Jordanian-Iranian relations, the official noted.

"Since then contacts have been continuing and the resumption of formal relations is expected soon," the official told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

An Iranian source, reached in New York, said the Iranian government has accepted the invitation to visit Jordan, but it was not immediately known whether the Majlis had endorsed the proposal.

Several members of the Jordanian Parliament have visited Tehran over the past months. According to observers, even some of the hardline Iranians who used to criticise the Muslim Brotherhood of Jordan as a "lacking" of the establishment are showing increased respect for Jordanian Brotherhood parliamentarians.

The Iranian source in New York said Iran appreciated the political position adopted by Jordan towards the Gulf crisis. He said Tehran also sympathised with Jordan's position of being caught in the middle of the crisis.

"Jordan is the victim of a Western conspiracy," asserted the source. "Its experience with the West, particularly the United States, is typical of many countries," he added.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has learnt the lesson the hard way and this forms the core of our approach to relations with the West."

Tehran Radio, which is close to the Iranian Foreign Ministry,

and several Iranian newspapers played up the prime minister's comments but there was no official comment.

The Iranian government has formalised a proposal to restore relations with Jordan and submitted it to the Majlis (parliament). It was not immediately known whether the Majlis had endorsed the proposal.

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Projected teachers' union to improve their status

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After many months of efforts and debates between Jordanian teachers on one side, and the Ministry of Education and Parliament on the other, in order to form a teachers' union, the minister of education, Dr. Abdullah Alkaleh, recently welcomed the idea of one being established.

"Special attention is needed for the educational sector. We must provide, without doubt, a unionist organisation and enhance its technical viability. It is an important and vital need to continue developing and serving this sector," Alkaleh said in a declaration, Thursday.

According to the general secretary of the General Union for Private School Teachers, Mazen Maaitah, "we have fought for this union to be set up because we want to see the teacher protected." He explained that with the union established, the teachers would, automatically, get more protection.

Maaitah told the Jordan Times that "the teacher exerts a lot of effort physically and men-

ally in preparing for exams and the curriculum." Because of the low pay, and the low social status the teacher has, sometimes they resort to other jobs to support themselves and their families. "With this union, we hope that the financial, economic and social status of the teacher will be enhanced," Maaitah added.

Although teachers involved in the creation of the union were not available for questioning, specialists are of the opinion that the teaching profession is extremely important in defending the country and shaping thought, especially now that Jordan is facing hardships.

The idea of the teachers' union first came about at the beginning of last year when teachers from all over Jordan realised that it was their legitimate right to demand an association as such. The teachers formed committees in all towns in order to send and appeal to Parliament to have the union approved.

According to one of the members involved, "we gathered around 20,000 signatures on the application and through a delegation of 40 teachers from all over the Kingdom, we presented it to

the Ministry of Education in March 1990." He added that a copy was also given to the prime minister who promised to look into the matter, "but nothing came out of it."

In July again, another application was submitted, with further promises. On January 3 it was accepted and 11 parliamentarians requested to put forth a law that would enhance the role of the teachers and defend their rights and needs.

If approved, the union would offer protection to workers and teachers within the Ministry of Education, according to Maaitah. "Among the proposed laws there is the one that would set up a head office in Amman and establish branch offices throughout the Kingdom."

One existing union, Maaitah explained, is the General Union for Private School Teachers, which deals with the private schools.

The teachers' union will take effect as soon as its laws are approved, according to Maaitah. "A draft set of laws has been requested by 11 parliamentarians. We are waiting for Parliament to acknowledge it."

Infant kidnapped from hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — A newly born baby reported kidnapped from Al Bashir Hospital in Amman Sunday, in the first incident of its kind in the Kingdom, was reported still missing Monday despite strenuous efforts on the part of the police and the hospital authorities to find him and the two women allegedly involved in the kidnapping operation.

Director of Al Bashir Hospital, Dr. Yousef Issa, said that the baby boy was still missing more than 24 hours after his parents reported the matter to the hospital management.

He told the Jordan Times that the police are now handling the matter and intensifying efforts to find the baby, which, according to earlier reports, was kidnapped by two women posing as doctors making rounds in the maternity ward.

Dr. Issa said he heard nothing so far from the police and he assumed that the search was still going on and the police were investigating into the case.

A report in Al Ra'i daily said Monday that the baby boy was taken from his mother only eight hours after being born.

The mother, identified only as Aysheh, was quoted as saying that soon after giving birth to the baby boy two women, posing as doctors, visited the maternity ward and started examining mothers and their newly born babies.

One of the two women told Aysheh that her baby was not well and that she was taking him to the incubators section; that was the last she saw of her baby.

According to the report, the husband, accompanied by his father in law, came two hours later to enquire about the health of the baby at the incubators section, but was shocked to learn that no newly born babies had arrived on that day.

They reported the matter to the hospital authorities which in turn called in the police. Extensive search throughout Al Bashir Hospital did not lead to any trace of the baby or the two imposters, according to the report.

CAA denies rumours of airports closure

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Monday denied rumours that Jordanian airports will be closed on Jan. 10, five days before the U.N. Security Council's deadline for Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait.

A CAA spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra as saying that rumours about closing the airports on Jan. 10 were groundless.

The rumours could have been motivated by the outflow of foreign nationals who are now leaving the country heading the travel advisories issued by their respective governments for fear of an outbreak of war in the Gulf after the Jan. 15 deadline.

Airport sources told the Jordan Times that flights headed for the United States and Europe were overbooked, ahead of the Jan. 15 deadline, and Royal Jordanian officials said that the national carrier's four weekly flights to New York as well as other flights to Europe were fully booked all the time.

Some European countries have also issued advisory notes asking their nationals to refrain from visiting the Middle East at present.

Diplomatic sources said that the several Asian countries were gearing up to evacuate their nationals in the event of war becoming a reality after the deadline.

Illiteracy stands at 20%, but gradually declining

AMMAN (J.T.) — By the end of the past year, 1990, the illiteracy rate in Jordan stood at 20 per cent, but this is gradually reduced at the rate of one per cent a year to reach nearly 10 per cent by the end of the present century, according to a senior official from the Ministry of Education Monday.

Speaking on the eve of the Arab day for eradicating illiteracy, Khalid Al Sheikh, director of the ministry's General Education Department said that the illiterates are mostly those above 45 years of age, but the ministry's schools and evening classes are bound to greatly diminish the present rates by the year 2000.

The Ministry of Education, he said, has embarked on expanded programmes for those who missed going to school in their youth and for those students who, for some reason or another, failed to complete their basic education at school.

Minister of Education Abdullah Al Akleh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that in the past year there were 11,559 illiterates

attending evening and adult education classes in Jordan.

The Ministry of Education is running an estimated 500 adult education centres in the Kingdom, which over the past ten years provided education to 104,000 persons, said the minister.

"Jordan's efforts to eradicate illiteracy in the country dates back to the early 1950s, and the Ministry of Education, which takes charge of the process has been increasing the number of schools and adult education centres, and offering basic education free of charge," the minister added.

The Ministry of Education is now implementing adult education programmes on a wide scale in the Jordan Valley and in 61 remote villages in Jordan.

"The ministry, which is implementing the programmes as of the beginning of next month, is acquiring financial support from a number of organisations to achieve that end," the minister said. The Ministry of Education, he added, is conducting surveys to implement similar projects in the country during the 1991-1992 scholastic year.

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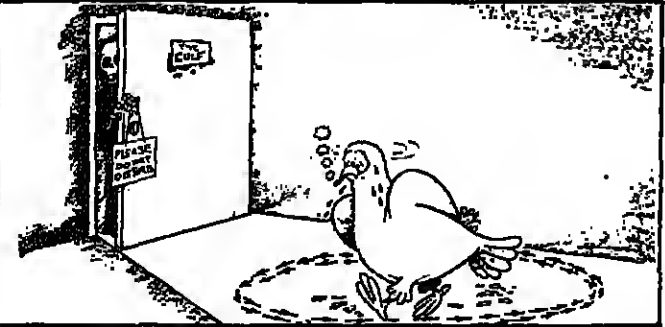
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World and crucial role in the Gulf

THE EYES of the world are all focused on the Baker-Aziz talks in Geneva on Wednesday to see if a breakthrough can still be achieved over the standoff in the Gulf. But, the odds appear not to be in favour of ending the stalemate between Baghdad and Washington in view of the apparent hardening of positions on both sides on the eve of the Iraqi-U.S. talks. It is nevertheless still possible to regard the declared postures of both parties as mere bargaining positions that need not reflect their respective final stances. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is not likely to have taken all the trouble of arranging the meeting with his Iraqi counterpart simply to hand over a written message from President Bush. Baker has distinguished himself as a consummate negotiator, and on the basis of his abilities and his credentials as a statesman, one would expect that he will also engage the Iraqi side in meaningful "negotiations" or "discussions" or whatever they are called to avert war in the Gulf. There is no doubt that — rationally at least — the U.S. would want to avoid war because it recognises the high price of military confrontation. Neither the American public nor the U.S. Congress would stomach a devastating war in the Gulf when the stakes are not that great from the U.S. national interest's point of view. Likewise, it cannot be presumed that Baghdad is looking for a fight because it also understands the magnitude of war and fully appreciates its disastrous consequences.

Meanwhile, the international community cannot afford to see Iraq and the U.S. locked irrevocably in an armed conflict that neither side can be presumed to want. As the impact of any such catastrophe would touch many in this world, the public of every nation has a right to intervene to stop war from occurring. Belatedly, the Organisation of Islamic States (OIS) began to rouse itself from its slumber and is now considering mediation in the Gulf crisis. This is a positive development that deserves the support of all sides. The Pope has already issued an appeal on behalf of humanity calling on Washington and Baghdad to forsake war and find another way to deal with the situation in that part of the world. Nearly all the church groups in the U.S., including President Bush's own church, have also made emotional appeals against the resort to arms. Surely the voices in support of the peace option deserve to be heard for they represent the voices of the greater majority of mankind. Certainly the self-destructive stance now dominating the Gulf scene is untenable and should not be tolerated by the peoples of this world.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday, 'I tribute to the Iraqi Armed Forces on their 70th anniversary, and said that these forces are now confronting the most serious challenge since their creation, but are more determined than ever to repel aggression. The Iraqi Armed Forces are now confronting the invaders, the aggressors and the unholy alliance which has been gathered from around the world to wage war on the Arabs and subvert their free will, said the paper. Hundreds of thousands of Iraqi men are alert and ready to defend their sacred soil and to defend the nation despite the many odds they are faced with and the formidable foe equipped with mass-destruction weapons and all forms of war machinery, the paper continued. Behind these troops lie millions of Arabs who share with the Iraqi people their hopes and aspirations, and support their endeavour to protect their homeland and deal ignominious defeat to the enemy, the paper added. The development of the huge forces and warships in the Gulf, the paper said, helped to increase the Iraqi people and armed forces resolve to fight and win the battle against the invaders and the traitors to the Arab causes. The Iraqi Armed Forces, the paper concluded, are determined to rid the Arabs of the feeling of submission, fear of the colonialists and bring new hope to the millions of Arabs everywhere.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily criticises the American administration and President Bush for their attitude concerning the U.S.-Iraqi talks in Geneva on Jan. 9. As the dates for the talks draw near, Bush and his administration officials are not de-escalating their war tone but, on the contrary, are issuing provocative statements, further escalating tension which is not conducive to peace, the paper noted. Bush had said that he will use the Geneva meeting as a forum to issue a final ultimatum to Baghdad to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, and that he is determined to wage war on Iraq should it refuse to comply, the paper noted. Bush, the paper added, is hoping to intimidate the Iraqi leadership and the Iraqi Armed Forces who are celebrating the armed forces 70th anniversary with renewed pledges to pursue efforts aiming to defeat the invaders and to liberate the Arabian peninsula from foreign forces. The paper said that although Iraq is willing to respond favourably to various peace bids, it is no doubt more determined than ever to defend the Arab homeland. Iraq, the paper added, does not fear war threats, and its determination can never waver although it is going to Geneva with an olive branch. The paper said that the world is watching the outcome of the Geneva meeting and hopes that Bush will finally listen to the call of reason and common sense.

Israel fears a peace that pleases Iraq

By G. G. Labelle
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — One thing frightens Israel almost as much as Iraq drawing the world into a war: Iraq drawing the world into a Middle East peace conference that gives outsiders a say in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Israelis are edgy about Wednesday's planned meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. They see in it the potential for realising their two worst nightmares.

First, a peaceful Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait could leave Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in power, with his most formidable Arab army facing Israel.

Second, it could foster an international conference on the Middle East, which would discuss Israel's 23-year-old occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, many Israelis have said that the only satisfactory resolution of the Gulf crisis would be the destruction of Saddam and Iraq's military machine.

Any other solution, the daily Yedioth Ahronoth wrote soon after the invasion, "would mean that we would remain here alone with Saddam and his mad ambitions, and only four minutes from his missile launchers and chemical bombs."

Joseph Alpher, a military analyst at Tel Aviv university's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, made the same point Sunday in releasing a new study on regional military power.

"Success in the conflict with Saddam Hussein has to mean more than getting him out of Kuwait," he told reporters. "It has to mean a 'defanging' operation, of seriously cutting down to size the Iraqi military industrial potential, and beyond that of getting rid of Saddam's regime."

Newspapers have quoted unnamed Israeli officials as

saying the Israeli army would destroy Saddam if the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf doesn't. These reports have always been officially denied.

As bad as the possibility of Saddam's survival, in the Israeli view, is the suggestion that the Baker-Aziz meeting will achieve what Saddam has demanded for five months: a linkage between Iraq's rule over Kuwait and Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Only 10 days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saddam started saying he would negotiate a pullout if Israel would withdraw from the territories occupied from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel immediately rejected that suggestion and the phrase "no linkage" has become embedded ever since in the Israeli political lexicon.

The Israeli view is that Saddam gained Kuwait by aggression, while Israel's capture of Arab land resulted from a preemptive attack on Arab armies that were about to invade the Jewish state.

This week, however, European reports from unnamed sources have said a secret deal is afoot to have Saddam leave Kuwait in exchange for, among other things, an international peace conference on the Middle East.

This conference could consider Iraq's claims against Kuwait, as well as Israel's rule over the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Israeli President Yitzhak Shamir on Sunday appeared willing to hold some negotiations.

Speaking on a French radio show, Shamir said he was prepared to receive Arab leaders, including Saddam, to discuss peace with Israel.

He said his country was "ready and even interested" to "negotiate with the Arab World a solution to our conflict."

Arab countries have not responded in the past to Israeli



offers for direct talks.

Israel has long opposed a peace conference on a global scale. It fears the Arabs, backed by Third World allies in the United Nations and possibly even the superpowers, could force concessions from Israel.

The concession most feared by Shamir and his right-wing government would be giving up the occupied lands, which many Israelis view as well as theirs by biblical promise.

But some left-wingers have suggested that Israel upstage Saddam by launching its own peace initiative.

In Sunday's Jerusalem Post, Arieh Yaari of the Tel Aviv-based International Centre for Peace in the Middle East urged that Israel propose talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, saying:

"We should most emphatically not await the end of a

crisis, which will only make things far worse for us. We should make the most unexpected move..."

Jaffee Centre head Aharon Yariv, a respected former chief of military intelligence, said: "I don't think there is anything we have to be afraid of."

"I think we should at least be prepared...psychologically, politically and militarily, for negotiations," he said at a news conference.

Sunday's newspapers and radio broadcasts were full of fears that the United States — despite assurances from President George Bush — would agree to link the Iraqi and Israeli questions to avoid war.

The daily Hadashot editorialised, "We believe the Americans when they say there will be no secret negotiations, no linkage...But still, there is a strange feeling in the stomach."

A Belgian peace activist said he met Monday with Iraq's ambassador who gave him a letter saying Iraq wants a total disarmament of the Middle East and "serious" peace talks for the region.

Lecon de Pas, a sculptor and peace activist, said he met for almost an hour with Zaid Haidar, Iraq's envoy to Belgium and the European Community. He bore a letter from Haidar that said, "far be it from us to want war and we are ready...to build a more social and just world."

The letter said Baghdad "accepts the principle of a complete and verifiable disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East, including Israel and Iran."

Also, it said, "Iraq was ready to have a serious and in-depth dialogue about peace and stability in the region of

the Middle East" and Iraq was ready to do its share to help relieve suffering in the world.

De Pas said in an interview he plans to go to Baghdad to meet with President Saddam, but could not say when.

The letter he carried was written on Iraqi embassy stationery and signed by the ambassador. The embassy could not be reached for comment.

De Pas said he talked with Haidar after writing the envoy a letter last week asking if Iraq was prepared to devote 25 per cent of its budget to help relieve "hunger, misery (and) epidemics" worldwide.

"It is clear," wrote the envoy in his letter, "Iraq is ready to agree to all efforts by people of goodwill to rescue the least favoured populations even if these efforts are as great as you suggest."

Catholicism strives to survive in E. Europe

By Philip Pallala
Reuters

VATICAN CITY — Persecution by Marxist regimes galvanised religious fervour in Eastern Europe, but Roman Catholicism is striving to keep the faith alive now that Communism is defeated.

The church, which for so many years gloried in a martyr's crown behind the iron curtain, faces a much harder task of retaining its hold on popular masses in a democratic era.

Throughout the newly democratic countries in Eastern Europe, cardinals, bishops and priests are working hard to rebuild churches once severely restricted or even declared dead by governments.

They are reopening or enlarging seminaries, restoring church buildings, reclaiming confiscated properties and expanding religious education programmes.

Pope John Paul has enlisted the large Jesuit Order to help with the huge task and lay Catholics are being asked to teach the faith — a role once punishable by arrest.

But some Vatican officials worry that the new-found freedoms may lead to a less vibrant Catholicism and diminished importance for the church, now that it is no longer playing David to Communism's Goliath.

In the Pope's native Poland, the largest Catholic country in Eastern Europe, there are signs that the faith may be weakening just when the church has achieved the democratic reforms it so long strived for.

Some Polish churches, particularly those which were once focal points of the anti-Communist opposition like St. Stanislaw in Warsaw and St. Brygid in Gdansk, are less crowded now.

Nuns at St. Stanislaw's, the church of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest murdered in 1984, say the monthly "masses for the homeland" now attract a third of the people who came during martial law in the early 1980s.

"The church over-estimated its power of conversion when

formerly non-religious actors and artists flocked to it during martial law," said a top church official in Warsaw.

"By and large it turned out they were using the church and turned their back on Catholicism the minute they no longer needed a safe haven," he added bitterly.

Elsewhere in the former East bloc, church officials say signs of the faith weakening as a result of the fall of Communism are not yet as evident. But some express fears for the future.

"Of course, the existence of an enemy brings believers together...but détente does not necessarily have negative effects," said Antonin Lisak, auxiliary bishop of Prague.

A senior Vatican official said: "Only the future will tell. The challenge is to make sure that the freedoms for which the church struggled in these countries do not now dilute its influence or, most importantly, the faith of the people."

The changes which swept Eastern Europe in 1989 brought a diplomatic windfall for the Vatican which should help boost local churches.

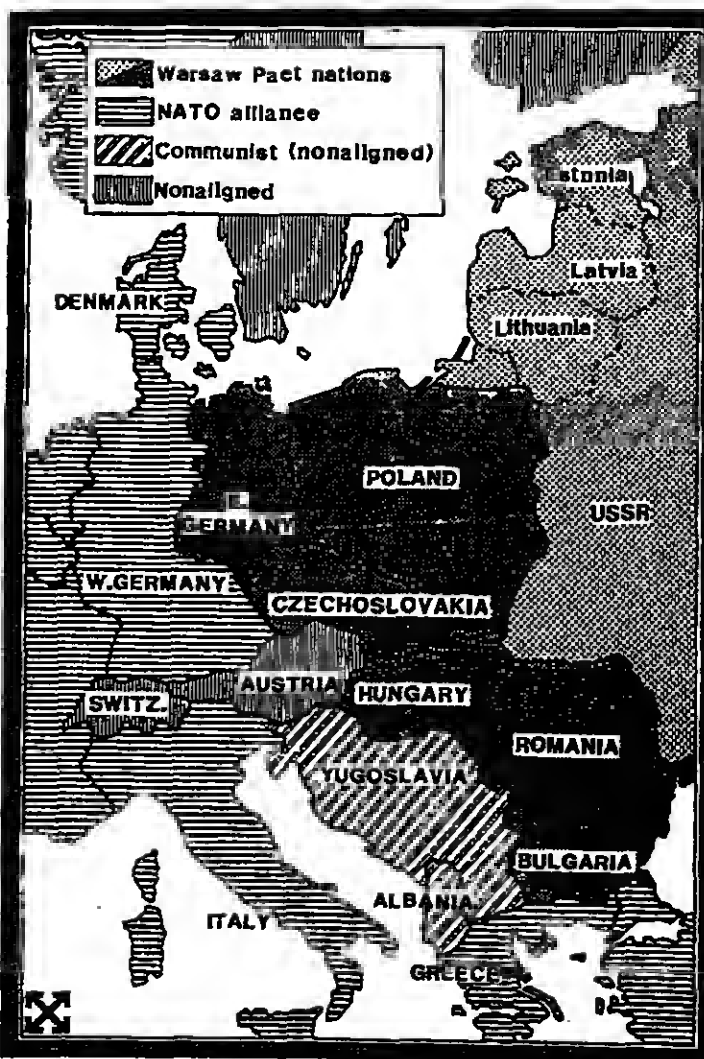
By the end of 1990, the Soviet Union and all East European countries except Albania had established full diplomatic relations or exchanged envoys with the Holy See.

The ties have opened a new horizon for trips by the Polish-born Pope, history's first pontiff to come from a Communist country and the church's most travelled leader.

This year he will make two trips to his homeland and one to Hungary — the first visits to those countries since diplomatic relations were forged with the Vatican.

He is expected to make a full pastoral visit to Czechoslovakia in 1992 after last year's lightning trip there to pay tribute to Prague's fledgling democracy.

Bulgaria and Romania have also invited him. As the new year begins, Vatican officials have their eyes trained on Albania, the last hardline Communist state in Eastern Europe to show signs of



a thaw.

Albanian Catholics held their first public Christmas mass in 23 years in December after President Ramiz Alia lifted a ban on religion imposed by the late Stalinist leader Enver Hoxha.

The big question remains when the first Slavic Pope will visit the Soviet Union, an event as inconceivable only a few years ago as the dismantling of the Berlin Wall.

"The problem of a papal visit to the Soviet Union is no longer one of principle or ideology but one of concrete diplomatic work," said Yuri Karlov, Moscow's first ambassador to the Holy See. "There are no more prejudices on either side."

"Certainly the Pope's trip to the Soviet Union is not just any visit. It is a happening and must be well prepared."

Last November, when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made his second visit to the Vatican in under a year, he told the pontiff: "The next time we

meet, it will be at my place."

The Pope's ambassador to Moscow is busy trying to establish what kind of secret structure the underground church set up during the years of persecution.

Before a papal trip to the Soviet Union, the Vatican would like to see an easing of tensions between the Ukrainian Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches.

The two have been at odds over restitution of church buildings which were confiscated from the Catholics when they were suppressed in 1945 and given to the Orthodox church.

Vatican officials and diplomats say they expect the Pope to visit the Soviet Union in 1992, making stops in the Ukraine as well as heavily Catholic Lithuania.

China seeks stronger voice in 'new world'

By Guy Dismore
Reuters

BEIJING — China's foreign policy has taken a change of course with Beijing seeking a stronger voice in what it sees as an emerging "new world order," diplomats said Monday.

The new approach, born out of the end of the cold war and Japan's own bid to play a greater role in world affairs, could become the most significant shift in China's foreign strategy since it launched its open-door reforms in the late 1970s.

"The era in which the two superpowers fiercely contended and rivaled each other for world hegemony has essentially ended," Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said in an interview published on Monday in the official Beijing Review.

"Currently the world situation is in a transitional period in which the old order has collapsed yet a new one has not taken shape," Qian said.

Numerous official commentaries have recently characterised the world as moving away from bi-polar domination by the United States and the Soviet Union towards multi-polarisation with Europe, Japan and China — the voice of the Third World — seeking greater roles than before.

China is the only developing country with the power of veto as one of five permanent members on the United Nations Security Council.

"In the 1980s the West could basically count China as a cooperative partner within the U.N. that picture is in changing," a Western diplomat commented.

People's Daily, voice of the Chinese Communist Party, last week published a tough condemnation of what Beijing calls superpower domination of the United Nations.

"The United States and other Western countries are using the current dramatically changing world situation to peddle their value concepts within the U.N., striving to force their so-called 'democracy' and 'human rights' and

other stuff upon people, so trying to interfere in other countries' internal affairs."

The United Nations spouted a lot about helping poorer countries but took little concrete action, the daily said.

"Most developing countries are deeply dissatisfied with these negative aspects (of the United Nations)," it concluded.

It was Japan's turn for criticism on Monday.

Japan was using its economic might to pursue "big country diplomacy" and achieve its goal of becoming a "political power," the People's Daily commented.

Japan's military expenditure was increasing while other countries were cutting their budgets, the newspaper said.

Diplomats said China's decision to abstain in the U.N. Security Council vote authorising use of force against Iraq was part of Beijing's new foreign thinking — a warning to the West that China cannot be ignored.

But China's growing dependence on foreign trade and investment means a radical shift in policy is unlikely unless hardline Marxist ideologies take control after the latest power struggle in Beijing.

China's foreign policy was confused, perhaps reflecting how Beijing was caught off-guard by the sudden changes in U.S.-Soviet relations, and a clearer strategy would emerge only after the power struggle is resolved, diplomats said.

Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping, well known for his pragmatism, did not want to jeopardise newly improving relations with the West, they added.

Foreign loans and investment are recovering in the aftermath of the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing and the resulting Western sanctions.

"Many Chinese enterprises now depend on foreign investment," a Chinese economist commented. "China's foreign policy has to be softer. They need the money."

White South African finds love in troubled black township

By Rich Mkhondo

KUTLOANONG, South Africa — Silvano Gregorin, a white South African of Italian parentage, is not worried by political violence in this dusty black township of four fellow whites. He has found his love nest here.

He loves his black girlfriend Dileledi Makume and has cut most ties with his family and a strong Italian community to live with her in Kutloanong, which means "place of harmony" in the language of the Sotho black tribe.

"Love is love to me, it does not know any colour," Gregorin said.

After a rampaging mob killed four whites in Kutloanong late last year, police in the adjacent town of Odendaalsrus asked whites not to visit the troubled township 300 kilometres southwest of Johannesburg.

Thirty-three people, some as young as 14, have been linked to the murder. The court case is due to take place later this month.

Gregorin and his girlfriend, who live in a small four-roomed bungalow, met six years ago at a non-racial discotheque he owned in the nearby town of Welkom.

Life in the conservative mining town — scene of bitter clashes last year between blacks and white vigilante groups — became untenable because of constant intimidation but it did not cool their love.

The couple moved to Odendaalsrus but neighbourhood disapproval forced them to leave their town-centre flat to a few months later and go to Kutloanong.

The prohibition of mixed marriages act, which outlawed marriages between whites and members of other races, was scrapped in June 1985 in one of former President P.W. Botha's limited reforms of apartheid race segregation laws.

But even with the law change, mixed couples still have a problem of where to live.

The group areas act, one of several laws regulating daily life according to skin colour, bars blacks from living in a white suburb even if married to a white.

Since 1985, 101 whites have married blacks, 2,203 whites have married mixed-race coloureds and 797 whites have married people of Indian descent.

President F.W. Klerk has promised that the group areas act and other race laws will be scrapped this year under his political reforms which aim to enfranchise the voteless black majority.

Gregorin and Makume are the third inter-racial couple to live in Kutloanong, which has been at the forefront of anti-apartheid activities in the conservative Orange Free State province.

The township shot into the limelight in 1988 when a young Afrikaaner (Dutch-descended) woman, Annette Heunis, defied her parents, the church and the white residents of Odendaalsrus to elope with her black Romeo, martial arts instructor Jerry Tsie.

They lived happily in Kutloanong for three years but then moved to the nominally independent black homeland of Bophuthatswana after receiving threats from whites in Odendaalsrus.

Another white man left after his loved died in a car crash.

Gregorin said the murders of the four whites, who were on their way to a township bar, were brutal but should not be interpreted as a racial onslaught.

He said he was not frightened and still moved freely and without fear.

Community leader Bavahele Mayekiso said: "Whites come into this township all the time. We welcome them. These are the whites we want to know, the

whites who also want to live in a new South Africa."

Some township residents believe the murdered whites were mistaken for members of a so-called "Third Force," a shadowy white group which Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) accuses of fanning township violence.

The ANC alleges that white-led security forces and right-wing extremists have stirred up the fighting to perpetuate white minority rule and to stall preliminary talks with the government on power-sharing.

The government says the fighting is mainly due to ANC supporters intimidating rivals and organising strikes, demonstrations and marches which encourage factional fighting and clashes with security forces.

More than 1,000 people have died in Johannesburg's black townships since August, mostly in factional strife between ANC supporters and members of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

Gregorin's choice of residential area has angered white supremacist groups fighting de Klerk's apartheid reform plans.

"Whites have no business being in the black areas in times like these," said Bikkies Blignaut, area secretary of the white supremacist neo-Nazi Afrikaanse Weerstandsbeweging (AWB-Afrikaaner Resistance Movement).

But Gregorin, who now runs a small business supplying goods to informal black shops in the township, says he is not moving and has involved himself heavily in community affairs.

His main concern is for his girlfriend.

"It is not easy for her even to go into the white town these days. I am scared about what would happen," he said.

"For myself I do not mind. If my time comes, it comes. But I do not want anything to happen to her."



Modern medicine has only made little headway in Haiti, where there is a strong sprinkling of voodoo in every sphere of social life.

Haiti — the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — These are the key facts about Haiti.

Population (6,147,000 (1987 estimated)). Most are black with a minority of Mulattos. About 80 per cent are Roman Catholic but most also believe in voodoo. Area: 10,700 square miles (17,219 sq. km). Haiti occupies the western third of Caribbean island of Hispaniola, the rest is the Dominican Republic.

Capital: Port-Au-Prince (Pop. Est. 1,200,000 in 1987).

Defence: Total about 8,400 men.

Economy: Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. Its gross domestic product in 1987 was 11,235 billion gourdes (\$2,247 billion). Per capita GDP was \$372.

Two-thirds of the population work in agriculture, forestry and fishing, but only about one-third of the country is arable.

Coffee is the main cash crop. Main imports are manufactured goods, machinery, food and live animals.

Modern history: Colonised by France in the 17th century, Haiti became the first independent black republic in 1804. The United States invaded in 1915 and occupied for 19 years.

The modern history of Haiti is scarred by a string of coup attempts and riots since the death of dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier and the ousting of his son "Baby Doc" Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986. "Baby Doc" has lived in France ever since, but loyalists remained in Haiti, including elements of his feared Tontons Macoute gunmen.

An interim military-civilian

government was formed, led by Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy, which promised to restore democracy.

General elections in 1987 were suspended due to violence.

The four main opposition candidates boycotted January, 1988 elections after a new law barred observers from polling booths.

Political scientist Leslie Manigat won the vote, which foreign observers said was rigged by the military. He became president on Feb. 7, the anniversary of Duvalier's downfall.

In three months the brief experiment with democracy ended. Namphy staged a coup and appointed himself president. Manigat went into exile in Venezuela. Namphy clamped down on dissent, aided by the Tontons Macoute.

But in September 1988, Macoute thugs attacked a Port-au-Prince church, and six days later, presidential guardsmen deposed Namphy and declared Lieutenant General Prosper Avril the new president.

The country was teetering on the brink of anarchy. Young soldiers soon rebelled against officers they believed tied to the Macoutes.

Avril calmed the revolts, fired many officers and promised democracy. But he faced continuing opposition and on April 2, 1989, narrowly survived a coup attempt after sacking a group of officers he accused of links with drug trafficking.

Fellow officers arrested him and were about to expel him from Haiti when he was rescued by loyal presidential guardsmen. In 1990, another serious chal-

lenge to his rule emerged.

Despite his promise to hold presidential elections, Avril had several prominent opposition figures arrested, beaten up and exiled in January 1990.

And by March, popular anger had mounted too — protesters marched on his palace and violence spread to other towns.

On March 11, 1990, Avril finally fell. Supreme court justice Ertha Pascal-Trouillot became head of a provisional government on March 15. She was to work with a quasi-legislative council of state, representing all sectors of Haitian society.

Trouillot was to have turned power over next month to a populist priest, Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was a landslide winner in Dec. 16 presidential elections. Haiti's first free and peaceful polls ever.

But relations between Trouillot and the council were always rocky. The Trouillot government seemed on the brink of falling several times.

Her willingness to rein in the Duvalierists also seemed in doubt, particularly after feared former interior minister Roger Lafontant returned from exile last July 7, and openly tried to reunite the Duvalierists.

Lafontant formed a political party, the Union for National Reconciliation, in October, but the provisional electoral council disqualified him from the presidential contest.

On Jan. 6, gunfire broke out around the presidential palace in Port-au-Prince and early on Jan. 7 Lafontant's forces announced he had overthrown Trouillot.

The provisional president said in a brief radio statement she was stepping down.

New York streets are mean

By Verena Dobnik
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kindly look to your left, folks, and you'll see where mobster Albert Anastasia, gunned down in a barber chair, met his maker with a fresh shave and haircut. And over there is where Legs Diamond ran a deadly speakeasy.

Step lively, folks, for the next stop on the murder tour of New York.

Death is nothing special in a city where homicides topped 2,200 last year. But tour guide Sam Stafford includes only those sites with a certain cachet: The Dakota apartment building in front of which John Lennon was gunned down the opera house where a violinist met her end, and the building where the real woman portrayed in the movie "Looking for Mr. Goodbar" was fatally stabbed.

"Some people really like the tours, others are kind of shocked because we talk about murder, crime, sex, drugs and the mafia," Stafford said.

"We get some morbid curiosity seekers, but we also get some people who feel very sentimental about some of the people we do on the tour. We get a lot of beatle fans, because of John Lennon. It's sort of like visiting a person's grave."

A remembrance of deadly things past began Sunday at the corner of West 56th street and Seventh Avenue.

There, Anastasia, boss of a hit team known as Murder Inc., was rubbed out in 1957 in a hotel barber's chair at what is today the Omni Park Hotel.

The hotel was also the site of the 1928 death of gambler Arnold Rothstein, who helped fix the 1919 world series. He left a trail of blood leading to the room where he was shot for not paying a \$300,000 debt after a 48-hour poker game.

About a block over, on West 55th Street and Broadway, Diamond ran a speakeasy in the 1920s where he often ordered the orchestra to play louder to cover the sound of gunfire that snuffed out about 50 rivals in a back room, Stafford told the

handful of people who turned out for the tour despite a cold rain.

At Columbus Circle, Stafford pointed to the spot where reputed mobster Joe Colombo was gunned down during an Italian-American unity rally in 1971. Colombo lingered for seven years in a Semicoma.

Also on the tour is the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Centre, where in 1980 the body of a musician was found. She was murdered during the intermission of a ballet by a stagehand who attacked her with a hammer in an elevator, forced her to the roof, tied her up, undressed her and kicked her down a shaft.

From there, the tour continued to 253 W. 72nd St., where the teacher portrayed in "Looking for Mr. Goodbar" was stabbed 14 times in 1971 by the last of a legions of men she had picked up at bars.

The tour ended at 1 W. 72nd St., where Lennon was killed in 1980 by a deranged fan after coming home from a recording session.

Mary Ann Oklessen, who took the \$10 tour, said she became interested in crime lore after she was the victim of financial fraud perpetrated by a man who was later shot and is now in prison. She said her testimony helped convict him.

"Ever since then, I've been reading the New York Post," said Oklessen, referring to a tabloid newspaper that is big on crime news.

The 50 tours Stafford's company, Sidewalks of New York, offered to about 36,000 walkers last year include a trek through Jacqueline Onassis' New York — the haunted haunts of Green-

wich village, and a tour of Little Italy called "All in the Family." On one recent tour, reputed mafia godfather John Gotti walked right past the group.

Stafford moved to New York about three years ago from Dallas, where he led tours of the Kennedy Assassination site.

"People want to see how the other half lives and dies," he said. "Reading about it in the newspaper is one thing, but standing on the spot is different."

House

(Continued from page 1)

Minister of Transport and Communication, Jamal Sarayreh argued that the tax will not affect the poor.

"How will half a dinar affect the poor?" he asked.

The 10 per cent tax has been in effect since 1988 through a temporary law passed by the government. It was only at this point of parliamentary life that the law was put to the House to consider. The draft law (No. 35, 1988) was itself amended by another temporary law, No. 36, 1989.

The last amendment replaced the word "tax" by the term "service charge". According to Minister of Education Abdullah Akayleh, this was meant to include embassies and other organisations that are normally tax-exempt.

After the House approved the change of words, Speaker Arayihay and Nsour took the approval as endorsement of the article itself. But deputies from the Muslim Brotherhood ben-

ches protested, and another debate ensued.

At this point, the prime minister reminded the deputies that during their last week's visit to the Armed Forces they called on the government to increase revenues.

"We are thinking of introducing new laws," Badran said without elaborating.

Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh interjected: "Let me remind you that it is the poor who benefit most from government expenditure."

When the article was put to vote, 23 voted for the government proposal and 26 for the Brotherhood amendment. Most of the National Bloc and the Democratic Bloc voted on the side of the government.

In Monday's session the House also passed amendments to two laws as proposed by the government. It also set Jan. 10 as the date for a debate on the government's national health policy.

Garlic — more than a seasoning

By Randall Mikkelsen

Reuter

STOCKHOLM — What's the perfect dessert for a meal of marinated garlic cloves and a "transylvanian vampire steak" covered with roasted garlic, washed down with shots of garlic vodka?

Chocolate-covered garlic and ice-cream, of course.

At Broderna Olsson (the Olsson brothers) restaurants in Stockholm's bohemian Sodermalms District, garlic has become more than a seasoning, it is a reason for being.

"Everybody who leaves this restaurant should be garlic-poisoned. That's our mission here in Stockholm," said Ola Olsson, who started the restaurant with his brother, Jonas, about a year ago.

The two chefs are scouting for a location in London to spread their spicy mission abroad.

Diners at Broderna Olsson can enjoy all the delights of the culinary world provided they like garlic.

"We refuse to serve anything here without it," Ola Olsson said.

Pleas for mercy, citing circumstances where a blast of garlic-tainted breath might be socially incorrect, go unheeded.

"You can order extra garlic, but you can't order less," he said.

But the customer at Broderna Olsson is not taken unawares.

Below a lighted sign advertising "garlic and shots," the window of the narrow restaurant displays crates of white garlic bulbs. Inside, menu selections chalked on a blackboard are copious in their reference to garlic.

The atmosphere is a lively combination of cheap diner and cluttered office.

A large bulletin board holds a blizzard of calling cards and other paper scraps. Black-and-white family photos hang askew on the walls, watched over by a plastic michelin man. And a long shelf is lined with bottles of ominous-looking chilli sauces from around the world.

House specialties include a steak piled high with minced garlic, and the daring transylvanian vampire steak, which swims in a blood-red chilli sauce under a thick layer of horseradish and a topping of about a dozen roasted garlic cloves.

"Garlic shots" offered on the

menu are a particularly vicious measure of flavoured vodka. It would be a rare and brave drinker who ordered two.

Each table comes with a small container of fresh parsley, reputed to minimise garlic's aftertaste and affect on the breath. But parsley fights a losing battle against the onslaught of a broderna Olsson meal.

By dessert time, the taste buds have been so bombarded that garlic in the cheesecake or ice cream adds little more than background to the traditional ingredients.

But the restaurant has its admirers, and plenty of them. The tables are nearly always full at supper time, and it has received rave reviews in the local press. Customers say a little dose of garlic is a nice change from traditional Swedish cooking.

Most of the restaurant's customers are unbowed by the potent combination of garlic and intimacy, and many a romantic couple has sat down to a full-blown garlic feast, Olsson said.

"It's a lovely spice. It goes with Swedish food quite well," said garlic fan Jan Andersson, a Stockholm student who enjoyed a plate of tandoori noodles with a friend, Ann-Kristin Gneib.

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Hungarian breaks world record at Hill keeps boxing title

PERTH, Australia (AP) — A Hungarian unknown, Norbert Rozsa, broke the world record in the men's 100-metre breaststroke at the World Swimming Championships Monday and a Chinese star spoiled an expected American showdown in the women's 400-metre medley.

Elsewhere, the United States suffered a bitter-sweet start to the championships. Nicole Haislett won the first gold medal of the week-long event in the women's 100-metre freestyle but later lost a gold when judges said she jumped seven-hundredths of a second too early on the second leg of the 800 freestyle relay and disqualified the U.S. team.

That gave the title to Germany and ended a night of record-breaking performances — and deep disappointments for the Americans, who are favoured to win both men's and women's team titles.

Rozsa, ranked 22nd in the world, lowered the world record to 1 minute, 14.5 seconds, .04 seconds faster than the old mark he tied during morning heats.

The man who had set that mark and tied it twice Haislett's Adri an Moorhouse, was second in 1:01.58.

"I was hoping that I could better this morning's time," Rozsa said. "I am really very happy."

The eagerly awaited rematch between Americans Summer Sanders and Janet Evans in the 400-metre, a highlight of last year's Goodwill Games, instead turned into a race for third be-

tween two strong swimmers.

Lin Li of China zoomed past the U.S. pair and Australian 16-year-old Hayley Lewis to win in 4:41.45, .01 seconds ahead of Lewis.

Sanders was third in 4:43.41 and Evans, the 1988 Olympic champion, fourth in 4:46.05.

Sanders ended Evans' four-year winning streak in the Goodwill Games and beat her again later in 1990. She swam the fastest heat time, and it looked like the rematch so many yearned for would be there.

But instead, Lin, with the second best time in the world in the event last year, and Lewis, the swimming star of last year's Commonwealth Games, staged the showdown and Sanders was wondering what happened.

"It felt like the worst 400 I ever swam in my life," Sanders said. "I did something major wrong."

Top-ranked in an event she hates, Sanders set the pace through each of the first three legs. Lewis was second after the butterfly. Evans after the backstroke and Lin after the breaststroke. And by then, Sanders was fading.

Lin and Lewis pulled out front with 25 metres to go and Lin went in front about 15 metres from shore.

"I felt positive about winning before the start of the race," Lin said. "I could see Summer Sanders ahead of me but I felt I could catch her."

Haislett, like Sanders a mem-

ber of U.S. swimming's "new kids on the block" programme, caught France's Catherine Plewinski about 10 metres from the end and won in 55.17, an American record and a victory margin of .14.

"America's first gold medal — I feel good," Haislett said. "I thought I would just ride her in and do my best."

But about two hours later, Haislett was at the centre of the first big controversy of the championships, where swimming started on the fifth day of the schedule.

Evans overhauled Stephanie Ortwin in the final 60 metres to get the U.S. relay team — fastest in the world last year by more than two seconds — home first.

But the scoreboard remained in "unofficial" mode for a long time, and when the official results were flashed the crowd gasped.

"The United States has been disqualified because the judges found the second swimmer had left her starting position before the first swimmer had completed her leg," an announcement read over the public address system said.

The electronic timing system showed Haislett left .07 seconds too soon — smaller than the margin of apparent U.S. victory but anything is high enough for disqualification.

Haislett declined to be interviewed by Jeff Dimond, U.S. swimming spokesman, said the teenager was "devastated."

World record-holder Giorgio Lamberti of Italy won the men's 200 freestyle in a meet-record 1:47.27 with a burst in the final 50 metres.

"This is biggest swimming event in the world so to me it feels better than the world record," Lamberti said. "It is the best thing in my career."

In other events, Gao Min of China won the 1-metre springboard over Wendy Lucero of the United States, Heidemarie Bartova of Czechoslovakia was third.

Gao, the Olympic 3-metre springboard champion, had a steady if unspectacular round but sealed the victory with the day's best dive, an inward 1½ somersault from the pike position that won her only "9's" and a total of 61.20 points. She finished with 478.26 points.

She joined teammate Fu Xianmin as women's diving winners here and will be favoured to complete a Chinese sweep in the 3-metre springboard Friday.

Lucero, the U.S. national champ, picked up the day's top individual score, a 9.5 from one judge on a second-round backward dive. It led to her best day in international competition, finishing with 467.82 points and joining teammate Wendy Williams as a women's diving medalist.

Sylvie Frechette, of Canada won the solo synchro swimming title, beating U.S. rival Kristen Bahh by 4½ points. Mikako Kotani of Japan was third.

BISMARCK, North Dakota (R) — Virgil Hill successfully defended his World Boxing Association (WBA) light heavyweight title with a 12-round, unanimous points decision over fellow American Mike Peak Sunday.

Hill, who easily won the bout on all three judges cards, raised his record to 30-0 to the delight of the partisan crowd at his hometown Bismarck Civic Centre. Peak's record dropped to 13-4-2.

Two judges had Hill winning every round, while the third judge awarded only the first round to Peak.

The champion suffered a cut under his left eye from a head butt in the first round but was never in trouble.

After a few close rounds, Hill took control of the ring in the fourth. Dancing around the challenger, Hill began scoring with left jabs, though many were blocked by Peak who kept his hands up over his face.

The fight was not of the more impressive outings for Hill, but he threw nearly three times as many blows as Peak, who was on the defensive for most of the bout.

"I was satisfied. It was a good workout," said Hill, who has stopped 18 opponents inside the distance. "I threw a lot of punches. He's a very durable guy with good defences."

The best action came in the final two rounds when Hill moved in for the kill, but was unable to put Peak away.

"I had him wobbling, then I got tired," Hill said.

Peak realised he had not thrown enough punches to earn a world title. "It was a little under-busy," he admitted. "He turned the heat on and I didn't."

The victory set up the 25-year-old Hill for a big money fight with former Champion Thomas Hearns later this year.

Hill promised to be sharper when he takes on the 32-year-old Hearns, who has held titles in five different weight classes.

"When the time comes I will be ready," he promised.

Shriver, Krickstein win 1st round games in Sydney

SYDNEY (AP) — It wasn't just a routine first-round victory for Pam Shriver.

Seven months to the day that the 28-year-old underwent shoulder surgery, she was back in the winner's circle after beating 14th-seeded Isabella Cueto of Germany 7-6 (10-8), 6-1 today in the New South Wales Open.

"I usually don't get too excited about first-round wins, but this was probably the most important of my career, a little more special," Shriver said.

With 21 career singles titles, 83 doubles titles — 21 of them in Grand Slam events — and \$4 million in earnings, the former U.S. Open singles finalist can afford to be selective about her career highlight film.

Shriver, ranked 60th in singles, lost her first-round match at Brisbane last week to eventual finalist Akiko Kijimuta of Japan. Despite 14 double-faults, she survived against Cueto.

"She plays a lot of awkward shots," Shriver said. "But I hung in there and I'm pleased with my effort."

Shriver also reflected on the decision to have surgery on her shoulder and then attempt a comeback.

"I guess I was rushing to get my career over with, and I didn't really know where I was going," Shriver said. "But since I've made the decision to have the surgery, I've had a very positive attitude. I'm saying there's some really good tennis in me. I have a good attitude and can still be a force in the game."

She credits men's player Vitas Gerulaitis and top women stars Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova with giving her the confidence to come back.

Navratilova and Shriver, one of the most formidable doubles partnerships in the history of women's tennis, will team again this spring in the United States with a likely Grand Slam return at Wimbledon, where they have captured five titles.

In men's first-round matches, third-seeded Guy Forget of France beat Scott Davis of United States 6-3, 6-3, and Sweden's Johan Anderson upset fifth-seeded Jay Berger of United States 6-3, 6-4.

Careca threat to quit adds to Napoli woes

BRAZILIAN Striker Careca followed the example of celebrated South American team mate Diego Maradona after Napoli's weekend 1-0 defeat against Juventus — and threatened to quit.

"They treat us like this because we're from Naples," said the Brazilian. "If we're going to have to put up with things like that, I'm going to go."

Careca's anger was directed at the referee's decision to send off two Napoli players including goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

Galli's expulsion came 30 minutes into the match when he rushed out of his area and fouled a counter-attack by Juventus' defender Julio Cesar by upending the Brazilian.

Galli himself was equally aggrieved by the refereeing. "Even Julio Cesar said I hadn't done anything to deserve it."

But as the champions fumed, Juventus celebrated their 1,000th first division win — made doubly sweet by the reappearance of striker Pier Luigi Casiraghi after a two-month lay-off for a cartilage operation.

The 21-year-old, who marked his return by scoring the only goal of the match two minutes from time, said he owed it all to his doctors and his girlfriend who nursed him through 70 days of pain and boredom.

Napoli midfielder Massimo Crippa, their second player sent off, received his red card for dissent after protesting that Casiraghi had handled the ball while scoring.

Sampdoria also had two players sent off Sunday as they went down 2-1 at home to Torino after throwing away chances.

"We can only cry at the opportunities we missed," said Sampdoria's Yugoslav coach Vajadin Boskov, whose team are now fifth.

Six people were injured in fan violence after the Juventus-Napoli match. Police arrested three people and cautioned nearly 250 others. Buses and shopping stock were damaged at Turin's Porta Nuova Station.

There was also fighting at Genoa station when local Sampdoria fans ambushed Torino supporters and police had to move in to break up trouble in the stands at the Fiorentina-Lazio game.

In Spain, Real Madrid Chairman Ramon Mendoza was in buoyant mood after the club's 2-0 win at Sporting Gijon.

"If Real Madrid is in crisis, then the others have been in intensive care for a long time," he said after one of Real's better performances this season.

"This is the Madrid we have been waiting for," added midfielder Michel Gonzalez, scorer of the first goal. "What happens is that sometimes the enemy is better and we can't win."

The victory soothed the sting of last week's 4-0 home defeat to Osasuna but brought Real no closer to leaders Barcelona, who overcame early unsteadiness to beat Logrones 2-1 and extend their lead to six points.

With the Catalan's magic charm securing their win just 12 minutes from time, Real are forced to play a waiting game.

"Barcelona have still got a strong lead and all we can do is keep on waiting for them to make a mistake," said Mendoza.

Meanwhile second-placed Atletico Madrid, who travel across town to Real Santiago Bernabeu Stadium for a key local derby next weekend, faltered in their pursuit of Barcelona with a goalless home draw to

Real Oviedo.

"We tried everything," said Yugoslav coach Tomislav Ivic. "They only problem was that we didn't use our heads in attack, otherwise we would have won."

In Portugal, Benfica closed to within one point of Portuguese Soccer League leaders Porto Sunday after winning 3-2 newly promoted Gil Vicente in a hard-fought match.

While Porto could only manage a goalless draw at mid-table Penafiel, Benfica scored three times before halftime but were made to struggle late in the game.

Having established a comfortable advantage through Vata Garcia, a penalty from striker Rui Aguas and a header from Brazilian import William, Benfica looked to have few worries.

But Gil Vicente hit back in the second half, with a 58th minute penalty by Jose Carlos and a goal by Rosado eight minutes from the end.

Third-placed Sporting remain six points off the lead following a lacklustre 1-1 draw at Guimaraes.

In London last season's losing F.A. Cup finalists Crystal Palace were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Nottingham Forest in their third round tie Sunday.

Palace, beaten by Manchester United in the F.A. (Football Association) Cup final replay last May, struggled to break through the Forest defence marshalled by England international Des Walker and Stuart Pearce.

The closest they came to winning the tie, which will be replayed Wednesday, was five minutes from the end when defender Brian Laws cleared off the line in a goalmouth scramble.

Laws was booked earlier for bringing down John Salako with a late tackle as the Palace player was running into space down the wing.

Forest, who scored six goals against Norwich in midweek, failed to create any clear chances although midway through the second half Palace almost conceded an own goal when the ball struck keeper Nigel Martyn's shoulder as he and defender Eric Young collided.

For manager Brian Clough, who celebrated 16 years in charge at Forest this weekend, his dream of winning the trophy had been eluded him is still alive.

In other Sunday games First Division Leeds United, beaten only once in their last 14 games were held to a 1-1 draw at second division Barnsley.

Vatanen leads after first week in Paris-Dakar Rally

DIRKOU, (AP) — Japanese driver Kenjiro Shinozuka won the eighth stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally Sunday, but three-time champion Ari Vatanen of Finland led the race after eight days on the road.

Shinozuka, driving a Mitsubishi, beat out Swede Kenneth Eriksson and Frenchman Jean-Pierre Fontenay to win the 601-kilometre stage from Tuma, Libya to the Oasis of Dirkou.

The Japanese came in at one hour, 5 minutes 48 seconds of penalty time.

Vatanen finished only two minutes and 50 seconds ahead of Frenchman Pierre Lartigue who drives a Mitsubishi.

But the Finn dominated his teammate and rival Jacky Ickx of Belgium, who led the race after Saturday's leg but lost more than 40 minutes Sunday due to motor problems, organisers said. The Belgian is now in third position, more than 30 minutes behind Vatanen.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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SPOT THAT EXTRA CHANCE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7
♥ 7 5 4
♦ Q 8 5 3
♣ Q 6 4

WEST
♠ Q J 5 2
♥ J 10 9
♦ K 10 7
♣ 9 5 2

EAST
♠ 9
♥ Q 8 6 3
♦ J 9 4 2
♣ A 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ K 10 8 6 4 3
♥ A K 2
♦ A
♣ K J 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Bridge is a fascinating game. We wonder how many times a situation such as this has arisen and declarer actually recognized and played for the extra chance. Very rarely, we suspect.

South had a difficult rebid over partner's no trump response. The hand was worth a jump to game, but the spade suit was too poor for a leap to four spades, and the distribution made three no trump un-

Mutt'n'Jeff

Andy Capp

ANDY: THERE'S A FIVER GONE FROM THE RENT MONEY — YOU AND ME WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW IT WAS HIDDEN IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SCUIT TIN!

TCH! TCH!

SUPPOSE WE EACH PAY HALF AND SAY NO MORE ABOUT IT, BHP

Peanuts

RATS!

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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JANUARY 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This isn't a good time to be taking chances or for buying expensive items of beauty, art or things of adornment. Keeping some of your activity private pays dividends later on.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Until evening, tensions between a friend and an advisor can be such that you don't know what is best so avoid them and concentrate on yourself.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A conflict between your worldly position and what an associate wants you to do can lead you into much muddled thinking but tonight all is clear.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You look longingly to new horizons yet you have a considerable amount of work to do before you are able to get off in the evening when all is better.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is your day to avoid spending more than you can afford on some temporary but pleasant extravagance so tonight have a good time out.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You just don't understand some condition at your residence and you would be wise to forget it during the day but tonight all will be just great.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Secret worry can help keep you from getting out and doing what you are supposed to unless you take yourself in hand and carry through.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the time to be sure no friend upsets the financial plans you have so carefully thought out and at the same time don't eliminate him/her.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The daytime finds you apt to have some disagreement with one of your family but avoid this and then tonight you can join forces in harmony.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are some pretty intimate worries you seem unable to do anything about so stop fussing about them and get out and do some activities you like.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think over the best means by which you can show you are the one who does not expect much from friends when they are concerned about finances.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) There are some pretty astute persons who are in a high office and they can be gunning for you if you are taking any chances with the law.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your interest in some new situation is all right tonight but during the day you would be wise to keep your mind focused upon personal finances.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

HARRIS 12-12

"I'm only eating baby food from now on. Let me know if I start to look any younger."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MARRO
ALCAN
NAITOR
HANCUL

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: PECAN LIBEL UNLESS BOTHER
Answer: Whoever said that money grows on trees didn't know that you've also got to — BEAT THE BUSHES FOR IT

THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Harrington

ACROSS

- Shell feature
- Smoky air
- War or night
- Emanations
- Holly
- Sheet of glass
- Drudge
- Socialist
- Axlike tool
- well
- Energy
- China
- Antienne
- Medieval singer
- Grayish brown
- Fruit drink
- Loose garments
- George or Erich
- Piquancy
- System of socialists
- Pueblo Indian
- Rocky ledge
- All of TV
- Simile
- Message
- Outdoor
- Sleeping item
- "Rabbit"
- Ben —
- Sp. gold
- Grape product
- Against
- Geographic dictionary
- Conquistador
- Victim
- Sheshoneans
- Offer or prefer end
- Honkers
- Ilk
- Jets
- Lock
- Catch
- Seller's term
- Referee
- Oozed
- Auditor: abbr.
- Tenor Mario
- Up to the time
- Hom sounds
- Molding type
- US defense system
- Mother in "Don Juan"
- by Byron
- Labyrinth
- Brainchild
- Love god
- Beacon
- Capt. Hook's sidekick
- Assurance
- A Magnani
- Author
- O'Flaherty
- Lucas
- Lucas
- Woody —
- Big spender
- Turk. cap
- Religious body
- Angers
- Hardy girl
- Shards
- Counterfeit
- Chief's sister
- Founded: abbr.
- Napping one
- Rep.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Shell feature: 2. Smoky air: 3. War or night: 4. Emanations: 5. Holly: 6. Sheet of glass: 7. Drudge: 8. Socialist: 9. Axlike tool: 10. —well: 11. Energy: 12. —China: 13. Antienne: 14. Medieval singer: 15. Grayish brown: 16. Fruit drink: 17. Loose garments: 18. George or Erich: 19. Piquancy: 20. System of socialists: 21. Pueblo Indian: 22. Rocky ledge: 23. All of TV: 24. Simile: 25. Message: 26. Outdoor: 27. Sleeping item: 28. "Rabbit": 29. Ben —: 30. Sp. gold: 31. Grape product: 32. Against: 33. Geographic dictionary: 34. Conquistador: 35. Victim: 36. Sheshoneans: 37. Offer or prefer end: 38. Honkers: 39. Ilk: 40. Jets: 41. Lock: 42. Catch: 43. Seller's term: 44. Referee: 45. Oozed: 46. Auditor: abbr.: 47. Tenor Mario: 48. Up to the time: 49. Hom sounds: 50. Molding type: 51. US defense system: 52. Mother in "Don Juan": 53. by Byron: 54. Labyrinth: 55. Brainchild: 56. Love god: 57. Beacon: 58. Capt. Hook's sidekick: 59. Assurance: 60. A Magnani: 61. Author: 62. O'Flaherty: 63. Lucas: 64. Lucas: 65. Woody —: 66. Big spender: 67. Turk. cap: 68. Religious body: 69. Angers: 70. Hardy girl: 71. Shards: 72. Counterfeit: 73. Chief's sister: 74. Founded: abbr.: 75. Napping one: 76. Rep.

Saddam ignites oil prices

LONDON (R) — Oil prices surged Monday after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iraq would not quit Kuwait.

The February futures contract for world benchmark North Sea Brent blend on the International Petroleum Exchange at 1400 GMT was up \$1.39 from Friday, at \$24.95 a barrel after touching a morning high of \$25.70.

"Things are perceived in Europe to be more on a war footing this side of the weekend," one futures broker said.

Meanwhile, the Paris-based weekly energy newsletter Petrostrategies said that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) faced a glut of oil in the first three months of 1991.

It said the International Energy Agency (IEA) was revising its estimates of demand in the 24 member countries of the Organisation for Economic Coopera-

tion and Development (OECD) based on an oil price of \$26 a barrel, against \$30 in its December report.

At \$30, if OPEC continued to produce at its maximum 24 million barrels per day (b/d), it would generate a surplus of its oil of more than 800,000 b/d in the first quarter, petrostrategies said.

Last month the Paris-based IEA, which coordinates the energy policy of most Western states, said the OECD members would need 23.1 million b/d of crude from OPEC in the first quarter of 1991.

London oil futures prices had tumbled more than \$1 barrel Friday on news that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday.

But Saddam's weekend remarks urging his people to pre-

pare for war "have stabilised the floor (for prices)," a trader said.

"The market has not decided this means war is certain, but the tone has changed again," an oil analyst said.

Oil stocks in the West are at historically high levels, and discussions of an emergency response to a worsening situation in the Gulf have centred on this and curbing oil consumption.

London traders also said they felt Iraq's rejection of an offer of talks by the European Community had raised the likelihood of war.

One analyst said prices could slip again ahead of the United Nations Jan. 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Another trader said, "If talks don't lead to a solution, then on Jan. 15 prices will immediately jump \$5 from whatever point they are at — and then the market will be on tenterhooks for war any moment."

Algeria to double gas exports to Europe

NICOSIA (R) — Algeria plans to double its natural gas exports to Europe to 60.65 billion cubic metres per year, Algerian Mines and Industry Minister Sadek Boussena was quoted as saying by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The weekly Nicosia-based newsletter said the expansion, to be completed over the next few years, would involve doubling of an existing Algeria-Italy gas pipeline to 30 billion cubic metres per year.

A new pipeline taking Algerian gas across the Strait of Gibraltar to Spain and Portugal and possibly eventually also to France and Germany was being planned, he said.

Boussena told MEES Algeria was planning to upgrade its total LNG (liquefied natural gas) capacity by around 15 per cent.

Algeria was also seeking to establish a foothold in the U.S. gas market, he said.

An impending deal with Shell would bring Algeria's total gas exports to the United States to 10 to 10.5 billion cubic metres per year.

Kuwait central bank said set for unblocking Kuwaiti banks

NICOSIA (R) — The Kuwaiti central bank, operating from exile for the past five months, expects an agreement soon with the U.S. Treasury and the Bank of England to free up the assets of all Kuwaiti banks that were frozen to prevent Iraq getting its hands on billions of dollars.

Kuwait central bank governor, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, told the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) in an interview at the end of Decem-

ber, carried in its latest issue Monday, that his bank would provide funds to cover any inter-bank claims.

The blocked banks have been unable to operate these frozen funds in the international inter-bank market, an important market through which banks lend and borrow to cover their daily cash requirements, since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The governor said he was satisfied that the other banks had successfully rebuilt their records of assets and liabilities.

However, he believed there would be no rush by foreign banks to demand repayment of interbank loans because Kuwaiti banks remained net creditors in the international interbank system and they would also be able to reclaim deposits after they were unblocked.

In other words, Kuwait banks were in a position to make tit-for-tat withdrawals if foreign banks demanded their funds back.

Chase Manhattan to close Bahrain commercial branch

BAHRAIN (R) — Chase Manhattan Bank N.A. said Monday it planned to close its commercial branch in Bahrain, the region's main financial centre, as part of a worldwide programme to cut costs and increase efficiency.

The bank said in a statement the branch would close during the first quarter of 1991 but that its offshore banking unit (OBU) on the island would remain open.

"Bahrain will continue to act as Chase's regional headquarters

for the bank's activities and client relationships in the Middle Eastern countries through its offshore banking unit in Bahrain," the statement said.

Many OBU's in Bahrain have been badly hit by the loss of deposits and international confidence following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Chase, which did not mention the Gulf crisis, said the move was part of a global rationalisation effort to increase efficiency and trim \$300 million from the bank's expense base.

A spokesman refused to give further details but informed banking sources said 19 jobs, all held by Bahrainis, would be cut.

Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad said Saturday it had closed its OBU on Dec. 31. The move cut the number of OBU's in Bahrain to around 50 from a peak of 75 in the mid-1970s.

Gulf International Bank, the second-biggest OBU in terms of assets, last week terminated contracts of key international staff in a review speeded up by the Gulf crisis.

Gulf fears cast pall on Tokyo and Asian markets

TOKYO (R) — Fears that the Gulf crisis is headed toward a bloody resolution sent Tokyo and other Asian stock markets lower Monday but gave the dollar a boost.

"Everyone is uneasy over the Gulf crisis. Will there be war or peace?" said Tadaaki Uehara, deputy general manager at Wako Securities Co. Ltd.

Uehara said the stock market has been "discounting a war in the Gulf to some extent since Iraq invaded Kuwait."

He said the Nikkei would fall about 1,000 points over a day or two if fighting breaks out, depending on how far the yen falls.

If Iraq withdraws, the Nikkei could gain some 1,500 to 1,600 points over a few days, but other worries would set in, he said.

Currency dealers said the market is reluctant to trade actively, pending the outcome of the last-ditch talks between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq Aziz in Geneva Wednesday.

"People don't want to gamble on the Gulf crisis as they can't tell what will happen next in the region," said Takashi Nobuto, deputy general manager at Sanwa Bank.

In regional markets, continuing tension in the Middle East and a bleak world economic outlook cast a pall over the Australian share market.

"The market doesn't want to get up and run, it wants to lie down and die," said one dealer.

Taiwan stocks finished sharply lower on heavy selling by big players taking profits from Saturday's gains, dealers said.

Dealers said market sentiment was gloomy due to the unclear Gulf situation and profit-taking by big players.

"The index is now in a downward trend and nobody dares to buy," said Joe Chiou of Evergreen Securities.

Hong Kong stocks sagged in very thin trade on widespread lack of interest rather than active selling pressure, brokers said.

"People are watching and waiting but war fever is mounting so even the day-traders are sitting tight," said a broker at an Asian brokerage.

Indonesian budget sends oil dollars to the villages

JAKARTA (R) — President Suharto announced Monday a big-spend budget for fiscal 1991-92, distributing higher oil income to the villages but trying to keep inflation down.

The budget for the year starting April 1991 jumped 17.9 per cent to 50,555 billion rupiah (\$26.6 billion), almost the same rise as in the current year. By law the budget must be balanced.

Much of the extra income will be spent on rural and infrastructure projects designed to increase the flow of goods to and from the villages, reducing supply bottlenecks that cause inflation.

"We have to find ways (of distributing the spending) with-

out sacrificing economic stability or prompting sharp price rises," Economics Minister Radikus Pradiwono said in a pre-budget briefing.

For the first time in recent years Indonesia is asking for less money from international lenders to make up its budget deficit, assuming foreign borrowing at 10.371 billion rupiah (\$5.5 billion), down over eight per cent on 1990/91.

Most of the extra income will come from export and tax earnings from oil and gas, which at an assumed price of \$19.00 a barrel will bring in 15,008 billion rupiah (\$7.9 billion), 39 per cent up on the current year's budgeted income based on \$16.50 a barrel.

Non-oil exports grew disappointingly slowly, Radikus said.

"Last year (1989/90) non-oil exports grew 19 per cent. This year we think it will be down to 10 per cent," said Radikus, who oversees all the economic ministries. That falls short of the budgeted 25 per cent rise for the current year.

Inflation looms large in the economy, reaching a six-year high of 9.55 per cent in calendar 1990 according to Suharto, from 5.97 in 1989.

Finance Minister Johannes Samarin said in the briefing the war on inflation, manifest in tight money policies and high interest rates, should continue.

U.S. federal regulators take over Bank of New England

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bank of New England Corp. hit by bad real estate loans and a declining economy, was declared insolvent and taken over by U.S. federal regulators Sunday in the fourth-largest failure of a financial institution in U.S. history.

The announcement was made in an evening news conference by the comptroller of the currency and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC), the federal agency that insures bank deposits.

The (FDIC) will run the company's banks until buyers can be found. Boston-based Bank of New England Corp. is America's 35th largest bank holding company, with assets of \$23.05 billion.

The company said Friday it would lose up to \$450 million in the fourth quarter. Such a loss would virtually wipe out the company's equity, leaving it

technically insolvent.

The company also said its problem loans would climb by \$500 million in the quarter, a figure that shocked industry analysts.

Bank of New England has been among the hardest hit by the downturn in the region, with real estate values falling sharply, pushing up the number of loans

that have gone bad or are in danger.

Bank of New England Corp. owns the Boston-based Bank of New England N.A., the Connecticut Bank and Trust Co., and Maine National Bank in Portland, Maine.

Through September 1990, the bank group lost \$203 million, after losing \$1.4 billion in 1989.

Den Norske Bank sees net loss in first year

OSLO (R) — Norway's biggest bank, Den Norske Bank (DNB), has forecast that it would lose money in its first year of operation due to high losses on lending at home and abroad instead of making a profit as it had earlier predicted.

DNB was formed in a merger a year ago of Den Norske Creditbank and Bergen Bank, the biggest in a wave of link-ups among Norwegian banks which are facing growing competition as Norway opens its economy to the European Community.

The bank said it was raising its forecast for 1990 losses on lending and guarantees to 3.33 billion crowns (\$655 million) from 3.23 billion (\$553 million) in 1989 before the merger.

Share analysts forecast that the bank would lose a net one billion crowns (about \$18 million).

Many Norwegian banks are

losing cash due to giving loans in the 1980s to clients, ranging from fish farmers to home buyers, who now face problems as interest rates are rising and the value of their investments is falling.

International problems, including higher oil prices, rising inflation and falling stock markets since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, have also hit Norway's banks hard.

"The picture given by losses at Norwegian banks is also a picture of the situation for business in mainland Norway," DNB chief executive Egil Gade Greve said in a telephone interview.

The mainland sector excludes North Sea oil and shipping.

Gade Greve said DNB aimed to cut around 200 or 300 jobs in 1991 after cutting just over 1,000 jobs last year. The cuts were in line with plans made before the merger, when the two banks had 8,000 employees.

Turkish stocks tumble 6.4% on Gulf jitters

ISTANBUL (R) — Heavy sales due to renewed Gulf fears at Istanbul's stock exchange caused share prices to plunge by 6.4 per cent Monday, dealers said.

The 75-share index (100-1986) closed at 3,292.30, down 225.6 points from Friday's 3,517.94, the first closing above the 3,500-mark since mid-December.

"The market moves according to Gulf news only, nothing else matters much," said dealer Cetin Birgun from Impebank.

"Every new word out from any of the two sides has repercussions on the market," said broker Yener Kaya.

Dealers said weekend reports in both Iraq and the United States stressing once again their tough stands on the Gulf crisis and ongoing war preparations caused traders to turn quickly to profit-taking after last week's 8.1 per cent jump.

Daily volume was down sharply to 46.3 billion lira from Friday's 87.7 billion and last week's average 53.6 billion.

The market was reactionless to ongoing domestic strikes, Kaya said.

Turkey is facing its worst labour unrest since the 1980-83 military takeover, with nearly 200,000 workers striking in the mining and metal industries with pay rise demands of as much as 500 per cent.

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If you have registered during 1990 please confirm your continuing presence in Jordan by re-registering as soon as possible. Please also notify the Consular Section about any changes of address and/or telephone number. Such confirmation is in the interests of all British nationals in Jordan.

If names are not re-registered within three months the Embassy will be obliged to consider that those concerned have left the country. The names will accordingly be deleted from the register.

If you are a citizen of a Commonwealth country which does not have an Embassy or Consulate in Jordan please ask the British Embassy, Consular Section, about registration formalities.

The British Embassy is located in Abdoun, near the Orthodox Club.
Telephone 523100. The Post Office Box Number is 87.
The Consular Section is open from Sunday until Thursday 0830 - 1200 hours.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended lower after the thinnest turnover since January 1986. Gulf war fears, a weaker yet and typical Monday blues dampened trade, brokers said. The Nikkei Index closed 332.61 points lower at 23,785.77.

SYDNEY — Shares lost more ground in thin trading, with Gulf worries and a bleak world economic outlook casting a pall over the market. The All Ordinaries Index slid 2.1 points to 1,239.5, its lowest level in three years.

HONG KONG — Stocks fell as investors shunned the market because of the Gulf crisis. The Hang Seng dropped 20.09 to 3,026.52.

SINGAPORE — Prices fell over a broad front on liquidation and a lack of fresh buying. The Straits Times Industrial Index of 30 Singapore blue chips fell 5.87 points to close at 1,174.70.

BOMBAY — The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 28.42 points to 1,010.77, after falling 65.94 points last week. The National Index gained 10.96 to 509.30.

FRANKFURT — Prices ended about 2.7 per cent lower after bellicose comments at the weekend by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The Dax ended at 1,358.16, down 37.91 points.

ZURICH — Swiss shares ended over two per cent lower on fears of a Gulf war. Dealers said volume was light with little buying interest ahead of a U.S.-Iraq meeting in Geneva Wednesday.

PARIS — French shares ended lower on fears of war in the Gulf and concern about U.S. recession pushing down prices, dealers said. The CAC-40 Index ended 39.79 points down at 1,507.87.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips opened under pressure with many investors on the sidelines because of Gulf war fears and renewed concern over the U.S. banking system, dealers said. After falling about 27, the Dow was off 17 in late morning to 2,549.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, January 7, 1991		
Central Bank official rates		
	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	664.0	668.0
Pound Sterling	1274.5	1282.1
Deutsche mark	438.2	440.9
Swiss franc	518.2	521.3
French franc	129.2	130.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	489.0	491.9
Dutch guilder	388.6	390.9
Swedish crown	117.2	117.9
Italian lira (for 100)	38.4	38.5
Belgian franc (for 10)	214.2	215.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9000/10	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1548/58	Canadian dollar	
	1.5325/35	Deutsche mark	
	1.7280/90	Dutch guilders	
	1.2967/74	Swiss francs	
	31.60/63	Belgian francs	
	5.1950/00	French francs	
	1151.5/2.5	Italian lire	
	136.75/85	Japanese yen	
	5.7150/00	Swedish crowns	
	5.9930/00	Norwegian crowns	
	5.8970/20	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	398.80/391.30	U.S. dollars	

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CAPORIA
(Arabic)
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
HER ALIBI
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 699238
PLAZA
Ahmad Zaki — Raghda
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THE EMPEROR
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British Ladies of Amman
Announcement
The next meeting of the British Ladies of Amman will be held on Wednesday 9th January at 10 a.m. at the Amra Hotel.
The afternoon meeting will be on Wednesday on 16th Jan. at 4 p.m.

NOTICE
The Cypriot Honorary Consulate in Amman, Jordan requests all Cypriot citizens to report to the consulate as soon as possible or contact telephones nos:
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Honorary Consul

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES
The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the intensive course in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on January 26, and will last for 16 weeks.
The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday.
Evening classes meet three days a week: Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday.
Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration.

Duvalier aid grabs power in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A former close aide to ousted dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier declared himself president early Monday after seizing the national palace, but the military said it was moving to end the challenge.

Haitians enraged by the threat to their country's first peaceful transition to democracy took to the streets in protest.

The attempted coup by an undetermined number of soldiers was led by Dr. Roger Lafontant, the reputed head of the dreaded Tonton Macoute militia that enforced the Duvalier regime.

It was not known whether there was any bloodshed. Lafontant's declaration came after heavy gunfire at the palace. The whereabouts of President-elect Jean-Bertrand Aristide were not known, but he was reported safe.

Lafontant announced the takeover on national radio from the palace, declaring he had the army's support.

But the army high command later condemned the takeover and said it was taking unspecified steps to restore the caretaker civilian government.

There was no sign of unusual military activity in the capital early Monday, however.

Before dawn, protesters shouting "long live Aristide, down with Lafontant" took to the streets in some sections of Port-Au-Prince, the capital of 1 million people, and erected flaming barricades.

Jean-Claude Bajeux, a prominent human rights activist, said

he did not think Lafontant would be able to hold power long.

"Lafontant does not have the complete support of the army and has the people solidly against him," Bajeux said.

Lafontant, a former interior and defence minister, went on the radio early Monday and declared himself provisional president a minute after caretaker President Ertha Pascal-Trouillot announced her resignation over the air.

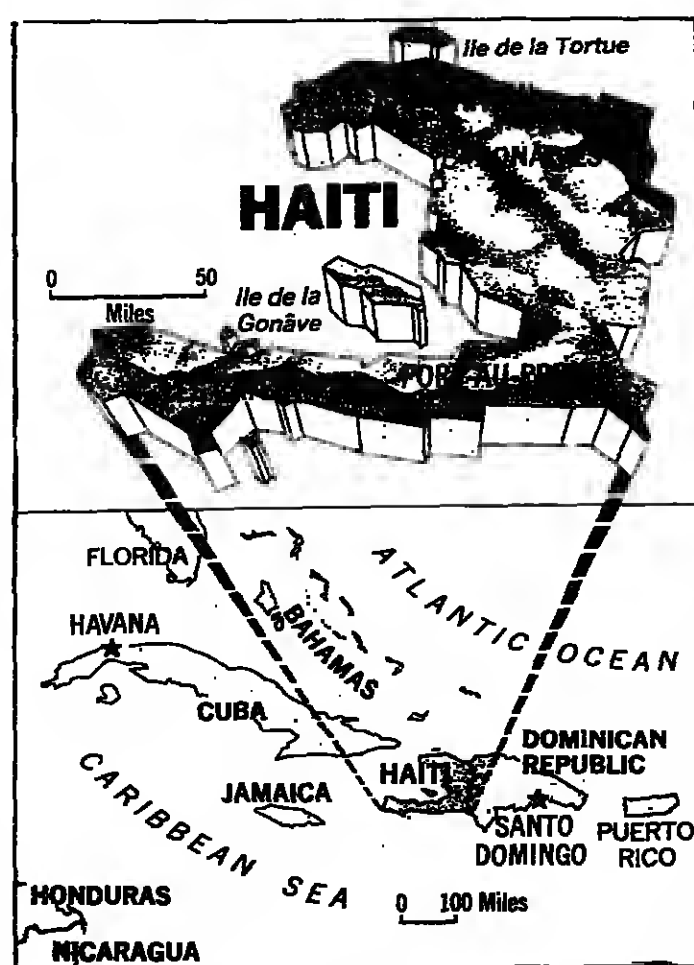
In Washington, a U.S. State Department spokesman said Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot was being held hostage by Lafontant.

"We emphatically condemn this assault on President Trouillot and this attempt to overthrow the constitutional government of Haiti," said spokesman David Denny. "We will provide no support to nor conduct normal relations with any government of Haiti that comes to power by unconstitutional means."

Aristide, a leftist Roman Catholic priest elected by a landslide last month in the country's first free nationwide vote, is scheduled to take office on Feb. 7, the fifth anniversary of Duvalier's fall in a popular uprising.

The independent Electoral Council had barred Lafontant from the presidential race. When Aristide's victory seemed assured, he threatened not to let the charismatic priest take office.

Lafontant appeared on state-run television shortly after the radio announcement and said he had acted "in association with the armed forces."



He said he was outraged by the election, which he called a "massacre" and a "scathing insult."

"The great loser of the elections was the Haitian people," he said.

The Caribbean nation has had five governments in the tumultuous years since Duvalier fled into exile. A November 1987 attempt at free elections was thwarted when thugs aided by soldiers shot or hacked to death

at least 34 voters. Former Tonton Macoutes were believed involved.

After the massacre, the United States suspended all but humanitarian aid to Haiti pending the installation of a democratic government.

Mrs. Pascal-Trouillot's announcement came at 12:10 a.m. (0510 GMT), about 2½ hours after heavy gunfire broke out at the national palace.

Cambodia pledges to take war to Khmer Rouge

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian President Heng Samrin has pledged to carry the war to his guerrilla opponents, saying they are asking his government to "commit suicide" in peace negotiations.

In a speech marking 12 years since Liberation Day, when invading Vietnamese troops ended the Khmer Rouge's nightmare rule, Heng Samrin said the government had made more than enough concessions at the negotiating table.

The government had passed its sternest test by holding off the Khmer Rouge since Vietnamese combat troops finally withdrew in September, 1989, he said.

"We have not yet scored a decisive victory," he said. "This dry season we should be active in counter-attacking the enemies. The people and masses should be urged to contribute to fighting the enemies."

The president made his speech Saturday from a podium of the royal palace to several thousand soldiers and civilians. Copies were distributed to foreign journalists Monday, Liberation Day.

The capital was festooned with banners and national flags and a night curfew was lifted.

Visiting soccer teams from Laos, Thailand and Vietnam were due to play a "friendship" tournament.

Vietnamese troops invaded after repeated Khmer Rouge attacks on border villages in southern Vietnam. They found a country where at least one million people had been killed or starved to death under the radical Communist leadership of Khmer Rouge chief Pol Pot.

The Khmer Rouge linked up with two other guerrilla groups and the alliance, with Chinese and Western military and political support, has kept the Phnom Penh government in a state of siege for the past decade.

Preventing the Khmer Rouge from returning to power was the core of Phnom Penh's problems with a United States peace plan, Heng Samrin said.

The plan hammered out by China, the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain calls for Phnom Penh to surrender control of five ministries to U.N. administrators before the holding of elections. It also wants the rival armies to disarm.

"The draft agreement must be improved," Heng Samrin said. "We have made concessions and they constantly make demands to the point of even demanding that we commit suicide."

He reiterated his government's objections to the army laying down its weapons, saying this would leave the soldiers vulnerable to treachery by the Khmer Rouge.

However, he said a U.N. force could supervise the cantonment of combatants.

Like many of the current leadership, Heng Samrin is a former Khmer Rouge who defected to flee Pol Pot's internal purges.

The ruling Khmer People's Revolutionary Party explains the past by saying Pol Pot and his henchmen hijacked Cambodia's revolution with their savagery and extremism.

Heng Samrin's call to arms matched a similar war cry by the Khmer Rouge last week when its nominal leader, Khieu Samphan, urged his units to step up attacks following another round of inconclusive peace talks in Paris before Christmas.

Aid reaches Soviets despite donor uncertainty

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Large amounts of food and other Western aid are reaching the Soviet Union, although some donors say they are still unsure what and how much is needed.

A few emergency campaigns intended to avert hunger during the harsh Soviet winter have slowed. Other donors are making longer-range plans, including shipments for the next six months.

Some donor groups are using their own personnel in the Soviet Union to monitor aid distribution. They say they are largely satisfied that aid packages are reaching the genuinely needy, despite reports of inefficiency and corruption in Soviet distribution systems.

In Paris, Jacques Lebas, director of the French relief agency Medecins Du Monde, has denounced massive food aid shipments to the Soviets.

"There are real famines taking place in Sudan, in Ethiopia. There is no famine in the Soviet Union," he said.

In Geneva, Secretary-General Paer Stenbaeck of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies told reporters, "there are needs in the Soviet Union but no traces of famine."

He said Africa, where 20 million people could face starvation, should have priority.

Scandinavian Red Cross officials are sending fact-finding delegations to the Soviet Union.

"Many want to wait and see what happens. They are unsure of the situation," said Sven-Goran Henriksson of the Swedish Aid Agency, SIDA.

In Moscow, KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov says more than 99 per cent of the aid is reaching those who need it most. He has told reporters minor cases of theft have been discovered by the KGB, assigned to oversee aid distribution.

The German Red Cross, which has provided \$13 million in aid, said the Soviet Red Cross is investigating alleged mismanagement of goods.

"I cannot guarantee that absolutely nothing has gone astray," said General-Secretary Johann Wilhelm Roemer of the German agency.

Roemer said there may be some petty thefts, such as a Soviet Red Cross worker who might keep a food package for his family.

"I will not excuse that but it's understandable," he said.

German Foreign Ministry spokesman Hanns Schumacher said donors control who receives aid, under terms negotiated between Germany and the Soviet Union.

"Private organisations that deliver aid to the Soviet Union are allowed to maintain direct contact with defined recipients ... and they are entitled to accompany their deliveries and supervise the distribution to the individual recipients," Schumacher said.

Dutch aid collectors say their own representatives have monitored plane loads of medicines arriving in Moscow. Organiser Gerrit Braks said most supplies bought through a \$12 million telephone will be sent in March and April, when it is anticipated that the Soviets' problems will be worst.

In Oslo, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bjorn Blokkhus said Norwegian donors will oversee the distribution of \$1.6 million in aid in the northwestern Soviet Kola Peninsula.

Dr. Aino Snellman said in Utsjoki, in Finland's northern Lapland, that reindeer-herding Lapps were sending aid including clothes and shampoo to the Kola Peninsula settlement of Lovozero.

"There is no famine there but basic foods are being rationed and the long winter ahead is frightening people," she said. "It's a small village and they have organised a commission to guard the stuff... they are trustworthy people and there is very little chance it will get into the wrong hands."

Civil Defence Ministry officials in Rome said a 100-metric ton food shipment from Milan arrived safely in Leningrad and was delivered to city offices for distribution to schools and rest homes.

Austrian government officials use Komsomol, the Soviet youth organisation, to watch food packages for orphanages and old people's homes.

Donors said the first wave of Austrian shipments has passed, mainly because organised aid campaigns have ended.

The European Community (EC) plans to send by mid-January 225 tonnes of medical supplies and nearly 500 tonnes of food — enough to feed 110,000 people for three months. Two airplanes and 52 trucks will take material to Moscow, Leningrad, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Chernobyl area.

Column 8

Critics say Goodfellas best film of 1990

NEW YORK (AP) — Goodfellas, director Martin Scorsese's vivid portrayal of one man's life in the mafia, has been voted best picture of 1990 by the National Society of Film Critics. The society, made up of movie critics from several major American publications, announced the winners. The best actor award went to Jeremy Irons for his portrayal of Christ Von Bulow in Reversal of Fortune. Anjelica Huston was named best actress for her work in The Grifters. Scorsese was named best director for Goodfellas. The best supporting actress award went to Annette Bening for The Grifters. Bruce Davison won as best supporting actor for his performance as a wealthy, gay playboy in Longtime Companion. The best foreign film award went to Ariel, a tale of low-life crime in Finland directed by Aki Kaurismaki. Charles Burnett was given the best screenplay award for his look at black middle class life in To Sleep With Anger. The critics gave the best cinematography award to Peter Suschitzky for Where The Heart Is, a comedy about the generation gap. The best documentary award went to Berkeley in The 60's. Two special citations were made.

Zoo raises prices to find mate for elephant

MOSCOW, (AP) — A Soviet zoo has increased its admission prices five-fold to raise money to buy a mate for Boy, Europe's largest hulk elephant. "An elephant needs a life-long partner. Otherwise Boy will smother his enclosure," the daily Kommunist says. The zoo's directors have that much money. The paper said that in Kiev, Ukraine, had increased the price of tickets fivefold to one rouble (\$1.60) to raise the cash.

Foster finishes directing film

NEW YORK (AP) — Jodie Foster, who has finished directing her first movie, has a tip for young actors: Just pretend. Foster makes her directorial debut in Little Man Tate, the story of a gifted boy, his mother (portrayed by Foster) and a psychologist who wants to take the boy away to enroll him in college. In it, Foster coached seven-year-old Adam Hann-Bjurd through his first movie. "Just pretend, really well," Foster said in Sunday's New York Times magazine, recalling how she instructed young Adam. "And then think about what that pretending looks like." Foster, 28, won the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1988 for her role as a rape victim in The Accused.

Drugs, not heart attack killed Elvis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — A pathologist who helped perform the autopsy on Elvis Presley says the king of rock 'n' roll died of drugs and not heart disease. Dr. Eric Muirhead said although Presley did have some problems with his heart, it was a deadly mix of drugs that killed him. "I don't deny that the man had some coronary artery disease and an enlarged heart," Muirhead said Friday. "But he didn't even have enough to have a bypass." Muirhead has remained largely silent on the subject in the 13 years since Presley died, though he has been described in the past as privately disagreeing with the finding that Presley died of heart disease. In an interview in the Commercial Appeal, he said he decided to speak publicly about his opinion following the recent release of the book, The Death Of Elvis: What Really Happened, in which Muirhead says he was quoted anonymously. He said media accounts that the drugs in Presley's body were sedatives and tranquilizers are true. Shelby County medical examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco, who was in charge of the autopsy, ruled that a heart attack killed Presley and said that Muirhead agreed at the time. Francisco said he asked Muirhead on the day of the autopsy about releasing the cause of death as heart disease. "He said, 'that's fine,'" Francisco said. Muirhead said that he based his opinion on Presley's hospital stays and history of drug use. He also said the official cause of death should have awaited drug-screening toxicology tests.

Seoul to seek explanation on KAL jet

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will ask the Soviet Union to clarify whether it found the wreckage of a South Korean airliner shot down in 1983 and secretly cremated all 269 bodies found on the plane, officials said Monday.

Foreign Ministry officials said the issue will be raised when diplomats of the two nations meet in Seoul for policy consultations.

Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev arrived Sunday for talks with South Korean officials. It is the first such meeting since the two former adversaries established formal diplomatic relations in September.

The issue was not on the agenda, but Seoul officials wanted to discuss it following reports from Moscow and Washington that the Soviet military deliberately destroyed evidence concerning the ill-fated plane.

"The news reports, if true, are shocking and inhuman. We need clarification," said one ministry official, who asked not to be identified.

The Soviet government newspaper Izvestia has recently reported evidence that Soviet divers long ago discovered the wreckage of a Korean Air (KAL) jetliner shot down by Soviet jets over Sakhalin on Sept. 1, 1983.

Quoting unidentified high-ranking Soviet officials, Izvestia reported in its Dec. 20 edition that military divers "climbed all over" the Boeing 747, which went down into the Sea of Japan on Sept. 1, 1983. All 269 people on board were killed.

Ershad charged with illegal possession of arms

DIHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Police have filed the first formal charge against deposed President Hussain Muhammad Ershad as more than 1,000 university students marched Monday to demand that Ershad be banned from politics.

Demonstrating through the streets of Dhaka, the students shouted: "Ershad is a condemned dictator. He has no right to do politics" and "try Ershad, hang him and his corrupt ministers."

"Ershad was not only a dictator, he destroyed democracy and institutionalised corruption. He and his associates must be hanged from politics," said Habibur Rahman, a leader of the All Party Student Unity, a coalition of 23 student organisations.

The 60-year-old Ershad could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted of the charge of illegal possession of firearms.

A deputy commissioner of police, Shamser Alam, filed the charge Saturday in a police station in the Dhaka military cantonment where Ershad lived when he was president, a senior police official said.

Police found four unlicensed pistols, four other unlicensed guns and 174 bullets in Ershad's former residence during raids after he was removed from the dwelling and put under house arrest on Dec. 12 in the Gulshan diplomatic area.

Ershad, a former army general, resigned Dec. 6 after seven weeks of violent street demonstrations against what his opponents said was a corrupt and autocratic rule.

Ershad charged with illegal possession of arms

He said that, on its own, the United States had studied this type of advanced reactor but never built one.

"This purchase is a way to leapfrog the process, to start from operational hardware and make a variation," the official was quoted as saying.

U.S. officials were unavailable for comment on the report.

McCormack said those who agree with Mitchell "have a great deal of history and practice to overcome."

Dellinger, however, said the actions of past presidents and Congresses cannot change "the clear delegation of power to the Congress."

The constitution cannot be amended by continually ignoring it, he said.

Fifty-four Democratic members of Congress asked a federal judge last month to force the president to seek a formal declaration of war before launching an attack on Iraqi troops in Saudi Arabia.

It remains to be seen whether the new Congress that convened last week will accept Greene's invitation.

Not involved in the current debate is the War Powers Act, the Vietnam-era law which limits American involvement in foreign conflicts. Administrations traditionally do not formally acknowledge the act, which they regard as an unconstitutional infringement by Congress on the president's powers as commander-in-chief.

The White House sent a letter to Congress on Aug. 9 in accordance with the war powers act saying that U.S. forces were being deployed in Saudi Arabia.

The letter did not, however, declare that the situation was one of "imminent... hostilities," which would have triggered a 60-to-90-day timetable for Congress to vote on whether to compel the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

U.S. to buy Soviet space nuclear reactor

NEW YORK (R) — The United States is ready to buy from the Soviet Union an advanced type of nuclear reactor used to power spy satellites, the New York Times said Monday.

The newspaper, quoting government officials, said the reactor was an advanced version of devices that have powered Soviet spy satellites for decades.

The United States, according

to the newspaper, has no nuclear reactors in orbit, although it has programmes to develop them.

The purchase of the reactor is to be announced later Monday in New Mexico at a scientific meeting, the New York Times said.

A federal official said the aim of the purchase was to learn about Soviet technology rather than to use the device in space.

He said that, on its own, the United States had studied this type of advanced reactor but never built one.

"This purchase is a way to leapfrog the process, to start from operational hardware and make a variation," the official was quoted as saying.

U.S. officials were unavailable for comment on the report.

Politics will decide outcome of war-powers debate in U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush is wrong in claiming constitutional authority to send U.S. forces into combat against Iraq without specific approval by Congress, many legal scholars contend.

But these experts say politics — not constitutional law — will determine the outcome of the war-powers debate between Bush and Democrats in Congress.

"It would be an error to think of this as primarily a legal debate," said Ron Rotunda, a law professor at the University of Illinois. "It is primarily political — these are policy matters more than legal questions."

Walter Dellinger, a Duke University law professor, agreed the debate is a highly political one but said constitutional principles should not be sacrificed.

"There are many difficult and uncertain constitutional questions, but this is not one of them," Dellinger said. "What the president is proposing is a flagrant disregard of a fundamentally important constitutional provision."

The constitution's Article I, Section 8 says, "Congress shall have power ... to declare war."

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing Tuesday on the issue of whether Bush has an obligation under the war-powers clause of the constitution to get authority from Congress before waging war against Iraq. Former Attorney General Nicholas D. Katzenbach is expected to testify.

Dellinger was one of 127 law professors who last week signed a letter stating congressional approval is required before Bush "may order United States Armed Forces to make war in the Gulf."

Than view is not unanimous among legal scholars.

"Two hundred years of practice appear to be on the president's side," said Michael McConnell, a University of Chicago professor.

"We have engaged in warlike activities over 200 times and have had only five declared wars," Rotunda said. "President Bush is proceeding pursuant to proper treaties. It seems to me the president has all the authority to do whatever he wants. The (constitution's) framers debated and changed the phrase 'make war' to 'declare war' because they did not want to tie the president's hands."

But both McConnell and Rotunda said Congress unquestionably has the power to prohibit further spending for any military endeavor. There is widespread agreement that Congress never would cut off funding once troops are in combat.

The Senate began formal debate Friday on Bush's war-making authority.

No definitive action is expected until Secretary of State James A. Baker III meets Wednesday with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz in Geneva, Switzerland. But Democratic leaders said there is no reason to postpone congressional debate until Baker's meeting.

"It is our view that the constitution requires the president to seek the prior approval of Congress for offensive military action in the Gulf now, a situation in these circumstances which would clearly be an act of war," Senate majority leader George Mitchell said following a meeting at the White House.

"The president holds a contrary view."

McCormack said those who agree with Mitchell "have a great deal of history and practice to overcome."

Dellinger, however, said the actions of past presidents and Congresses cannot change "the clear delegation of power to the Congress."

The constitution cannot be amended by continually ignoring it, he said.

Fifty-four Democratic members of Congress asked a federal judge last month to force the president to seek a formal declaration of war before launching an attack on Iraqi troops in Saudi Arabia.

It remains to be seen whether the new Congress that convened last week will accept Greene's invitation.

Not involved in the current debate is the War Powers Act, the Vietnam-era law which limits American involvement in foreign conflicts. Administrations traditionally do not formally acknowledge the act, which they regard as an unconstitutional infringement by Congress on the president's powers as commander-in-chief.

The White House sent a letter to Congress on Aug. 9 in accordance with the war powers act saying that U.S. forces were being deployed in Saudi Arabia.

The letter did not, however, declare that the situation was one of "imminent... hostilities," which would have triggered a 60-to-90-day timetable for Congress to vote on whether to compel the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Evangelist claims victory in Guatemala elections

GUATEMALA CITY (R) — Right-wing Christian businessman Jorge Serrano claimed victory in the second round of Guatemala's presidential elections after early results showed him leading with more than two-thirds of the vote.

"Thanks to God for this unquestionable triumph, a triumph that will mark a turning point in the history of our country," Serrano, 45, told hundreds of cheering supporters outside his campaign headquarters after the first figures were announced Sunday.

"We are living a beautiful moment. For the first time in the history of our country... a civilian president will turn over the presidency to another civilian president in a clean democratic process," he said.

Serrano is a born-again Christian Evangelist, as was former military President Efraim Rios Montt, but although Guatemala is predominantly Roman Catholic, the religious issue did not figure largely in the election.

With results from 284 voting booths in the capital, Serrano was leading with 68.3 per cent compared with 31.7 per cent for his rival, newspaper publisher Jorge Carpio, said Arturo Herbruger, president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

"This is very significant. I think this will be the general result in the capital," Herbruger said at a news conference. Results trickling in from the provinces showed Serrano leading with similar percentages.

Carpio remained out of sight but Edmundo Mulet, a legislator for his National Centre Union (UCN), acknowledged defeat and said Carpio probably would not comment until later Monday.

"I think it is a fact that Serrano will be the president-elect. UCN supporters are accepting that reality," Mulet told Reuters.

Serrano, surrounded by his family and vice presidential candidate Gustavo Espina as fireworks soared in the background, promises to form a government of "unity and reconciliation" and told supporters the election was historic.

"This is the most important step in the consolidation of democracy in our country... and it is thanks to you, my dear Guatemalans who knew how to defend democracy," he said.

The new president will take power on Jan. 14 from President Vicio Cerezo, whose election in 1985 ended decades of harsh military rule.

International election observers praised Sunday's poll as orderly and efficient, despite concern over low voter turnout that averaged less than 40 per cent.

"We would like to congratulate Guatemala on its elections today. It is a major step in consolidating the democratic

process here," U.S. Congressman Cass Ballenger of North Carolina told reporters.

At a news conference, Serrano said he would work to end a 30-year-old leftist rebellion that has killed 100,000 people and, as commander-in-chief of the 50,000-strong army, he would work to protect human rights.

Serrano played an important role in peace talks that began earlier this year between the rebels and a special private-sector commission.

He also pledged to improve relations with the United States, which last month cut off all military aid to Guatemala in protest at lack of progress in the government's investigation of the murder of a U.S. hotel owner last spring.

Five soldiers were arrested in September in connection with the American's death, but the case has moved no further despite pressure from the U.S. embassy here.

The Hanoi government says it is committed to market-oriented economic reforms, but has ruled out political reform that would introduce pluralism or question the party's leadership.

Thao, one of the most powerful men in Vietnam, said reactionary forces at home had been trying to "build a fire" and link up with others inside and outside the country.

Diplomats say the outburst from Tin, a prominent cadre who was the army officer to accept the surrender of South Vietnam's last president in 1975, worried party leaders trying to close ranks against the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

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